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Homes & Gardens
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www.kentnews.co.uk April 28, 2013 MID KENT EDITION Issue no 553

Warning as 'creeper' burglaries unlock way to steal cars

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

CROOKS are burgling people's homes and then rubbing salt into the wound by pinching keys and making their escape in the victim's car.

Now police warn the so-called 'creeper' burglaries are fast becoming one of the most popular ways to steal cars.

Officers say 96 vehicles – five a week – have been either targeted or stolen in this manner in Kent this year so far, a 54 per cent increase on the same period last year.

And living so close to the Channel means some stolen cars can be well into Europe before the victim even wakes up.

The crimes are fuelled by a rise in vehicle security which makes it almost impossible to start modern cars without a key.

Kent Police said criminals typically target high value vehicles – particularly BMWs and Audis – which can be sold on or broken down and the parts sold in the lucrative spare parts market.

Motoring organisation the AA told KoS some cars, once identities are changed, will be shipped as far as China or Africa, where vehicles are right-hand drive, the same as in the UK.

Ian Crowder, from AA Insurance, said the number of cars being stolen might be going down, but the number being stolen by someone stealing keys is on the increase.

"Keys are the weakest link in the car security chain," he said,

"It's almost impossible to steal a modern car without the keys. Never leave them in the front door or even near the front door within easy reach.

"A thief can use a pole to hook them up – keys are worth whatever your car

Continued on page 2

CAN THEY COUNT ON YOU?

CLOSE CALL: Political party messages ahead of May 2 local elections – SEE INSIDE

RETAIL

Is Tesco's rise on the slide?

FOR some, supermarket giant Tesco is a key component in regeneration plans – for others a key reason for the declining fortunes of our high streets.

In a special report, we look at the impact the chain is having in Kent and its recent decision to scale back plans due to a dip in profits. PAGE 4

HOUSING

Are beggars as they seem?

A LEADING homlessness charity has suggested a number of beggars working the streets of the county are not in fact destitute.

What's more they are now causing a nuisance to people using cash machines and proving a particular problem in the county town. PAGE 9

CONTEST

Write a novel in 100 words...

PUT off by writing an 80,000-word novel but keen for a creative challenge? Then we may have the perfect contest for you.

We have teamed up with Kent County Council to support a short story competition – in a maximum of just 100 words. PAGE 18

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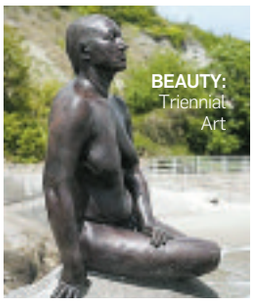

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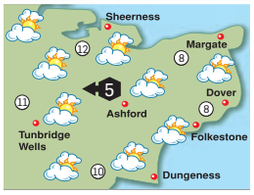

TODAY: Sunny spells developing by the afternoon. Light winds. Max temp 8-11C (46-52F). **TONIGHT:** Cloudy, with rain by dawn. Min temp 3-6C (37-43F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	01.03	6.9	13.29	6.8
Margate	02.09	5.0	14.26	4.8
St Mary's	07.06	5.8	19.29	5.8

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 10C	Min 3C
Tuesday	Max 11C	Min 2C
Wednesday	Max 11C	Min 3C
Thursday	Max 11C	Min 3C
Friday	Max 12C	Min 4C
Saturday	Max 14C	Min 4C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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PLANNING

Fears of a rise in 'garden grabbing' over proposals to relax home extension laws

By Marijke Cox
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A PLANNING watchdog has warned that changes to laws over home extensions could lead to a significant rise in neighbour disputes – despite changes being nodded through by MPs this week.

The warning follows a decision by communities secretary Eric Pickles to "water down" proposals which look to ease planning restrictions over the next three years – something the Government believes will help boost the building trade.

Initial plans would have allowed a homeowner to build a bigger extension or conservatory – up to 26ft, double the existing limit – without planning consent being required.

But a rebellion by a group of Tory and Lib Dem MPs – including Conservative MP for Chatham and Aylesford Tracey Crouch – led to an agreed change where councils will have to be notified and agreement from immediate neighbours sought within 21 days.

EXTENSION: There are concerns over plans to 'water down' planning laws

But despite the apparent concession to those concerned, Jamie Weir from planning watchdog Protect Kent, the local branch for the Campaign to Protect Rural England, insists the overall plan is "flawed".

He said: "Around 90 per cent of applications for home extensions are passed, so it is far from impossible to get planning permission if the design and scale of the proposed extension fits into the character of an area.

"Why, if the planning system is working with many home extensions getting quick and simple planning permission, does the Government feel the need to alter it?

"In terms of local impact in Kent, I would imagine these changes, if ushered through, will result in significantly more neighbour disputes as large, badly designed extensions are built in areas which are unsuitable for them.

"Equally, these changes may result in 'garden grabbing' as people attempt to make their existing homes larger so they can sell them for a higher price."

Tracey Crouch was one of the group of MPs against the initial proposals.

She agreed with a House of Lords' amendment to the Growth and Infrastructure Bill which would give people the opportunity to object and the council the chance to step in.

Ms Crouch said: "The Government made a concession so that when somebody wants to build an extension they have to notify the council.

"The council has to notify neighbours – that's anyone who shares any land or boundary with the home.

"It's similar to the current process, looking at issues such as local amenities and whether the extension would overlook private property, things like that.

"I'm not entirely happy but it's better than before."

Asked whether she agreed that the change could create more neighbour disputes, she said: "I think it could have without the change, but I don't think it will now neighbours have the right to object."

Clive Betts, chairman of the communities and local government committee, however, is far from satisfied, despite amendments to the bill.

He has written to Mr Pickles raising concerns over the wider impacts of home extensions.

He said: "Some extensions will have an impact on a neighbourhood that is wider than the immediate impact – for example in terms of making areas more dense and being visible far more widely than by immediate neighbours – and may well have an environmental impact in terms of loss of habitat and green space and prevention of running-off rainfall back to the soil."

CRIME

Warning: Don't make life easy for burglars

Continued from front page

is worth; you wouldn't leave £10,000 on a table by the front door, would you?

"With the weather improving, people might be having a barbeque. A thief can just listen for people in the garden and when they see no-one is in the house, they can sneak in and take the keys."

Mr Crowder said three quarters of cars taken are never seen again.

"Being so close to the English Channel, someone could be across to France and Belgium in two hours," he said. "Stolen cars can end up in places like the Middle East or China or Africa."

He said some cars now have tracker devices which can help police find them if taken by thieves.

The rising problem has sparked a warning from Kent Police urging car owners to be vigilant and to make sure homes are locked and car keys hidden.

Of the 96 vehicles, which were stolen, attempted to be stolen or recovered following a theft, 26 were detected. The others, however, disappeared, with identities changed and sold on, subsequently lining the pockets of criminal gangs.

But it's not just the loss of the vehicles which causes a problem, explained Detective Chief Inspector Simon Morris.

He says the trauma of someone going into your home and going through your belongings can have a lasting impact.

"The invasion of personal property often has a long-lasting effect on victims," he said. "We are determined to clamp down on criminals who breach the sanctuary of people's homes and help themselves to items of value.

"Our analysis has shown that in many cases, criminals have targeted properties where windows and doors haven't been properly secured, and entry has been easily gained.

"We urge householders to secure their homes at night before going to bed and leave car keys out of sight."

Tom Smith, from Herne Bay, became a victim of "creeper burglary".

The 29-year-old said it made him feel uncomfortable in his own home: "I took a weapon to bed and for the first couple of nights I didn't sleep much. It was made even worse when we found out they'd had guns."

■ Two people from Medway recently appeared in court charged in connection with so-called "creeper burglary".

A 17-year-old, of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to one count of house burglary and a further 28 offences, including theft from motor vehicles and house burglaries in Medway and Swale.

Chatham nightclub promoter, Jason Ross, has been charged with 25 house burglaries and stealing eight cars. The offences occurred in Medway, Gravesend and Larkfield between December 15 and March 2.

The 25-year-old has been remanded in custody until his plea and case management hearing at the end of May.

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SPORT

Di Canio ref: I made Paolo famous

Now an award-winning town centre boss in Maidstone, Paul Alcock breaks his silence to comment on a week of footballing controversy

Exclusive by Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

FORMER Premier League referee Paul Alcock found himself back in the headlines and on TV screens after a week of football controversy – and joked that he was the one responsible for making Paolo Di Canio a household name.

Mr Alcock, a senior figure at a Maidstone shopping complex, traditionally refuses to talk about his successful career on the pitch as one of the game's top officials.

But he broke his silence this week to KoS to discuss Mr Di Canio and the 10-match ban handed to Liverpool forward Luis Suarez.

The striker sensationally bit an opponent during a televised match last weekend.

It prompted much debate over some of the sport's most high profile controversies.

In addition to Eric Cantona's famous karate kick at a fan, footage was shown of Mr Di Canio pushing over Mr Alcock during a game 14 years ago. The fiery Italian earned himself, in addition to a red card, an 11-match ban and a £10,000 fine. Now 44, the star recently returned to the Premier League as manager of Sunderland.

Mr Alcock, manager of The Mall Chequers in Maidstone and chairman of its Town Centre Management team, told us: "People move on in life but there is always something that comes back and bites you. Whenever his name is mentioned I seem to get dragged in, but I suppose I was the one responsible for his rise to fame."

As for advice on how to handle Luis Suarez?

"I'd suggest to his manager that he is fed before each game," he quipped.

Meanwhile, Mr Alcock recently picked up a lifetime achievement award for his work in Maidstone town centre at the Kent Community Safety Awards, organised by Kent Police.

He added: "It was a very proud moment, just being nominated, but to win was beyond my expectations. It makes all of the work to help keep our town safe and secure worthwhile."

MOMENT OF INFAMY

Paul Alcock became forever tied to the career of Paolo Di Canio in September 1998.

The Italian was playing for Sheffield Wednesday in a league clash against Arsenal at Hillsborough when a furious Di Canio pushed the referee and sent him tumbling onto the turf. The footage was beamed around the world.

ANIMALS

Shock as dog dies in car

STUDENTS at Sittingbourne Community College are mourning the loss of a pet dog, used by teachers to work with lower-ability pupils, who died after being left locked in a car in 20-degree heat on Tuesday.

The RSPCA is investigating after a mix-up between teachers left Ruby, a black Labrador, in the car for more than six hours.

The college, part of the Swale Academy Trust, said pupils had been "extremely upset".

TRANSPORT

Ferry firm suspended

RAMSGATE to Ostend ferry operator TransEuropa has gone into administration.

The company employs around 25 people at its Thanet offices and operates passenger and freight services. Administrators have been called in to its headquarters in Belgium amid fears the most recent payments to staff will not be made.

DEATH

Mote Park body named

A BODY found in the river at Mote Park in Maidstone on Thursday has been identified as that of a woman who went missing earlier in the week. On Friday afternoon, police confirmed the body was that of Susan Hampton, 64, who went missing from her home in the town on Monday. Her death is not being treated as suspicious.

CRIME

Fans given three-year football ban for drunken pitch invasion

TWO men who climbed over the perimeter fence at a Gillingham league game before running the entire length of the pitch and sliding on their knees in front of the goal at the Rainham End, have been banned for three years.

Both were hit with the football banning orders for their drunken exploits – preventing them from attending any game in the professional divisions, home and abroad, for three years.

Ryan Kelly, 27, of Trafalgar Square, and Leon Cooper, 27, of Linden Road, both Gillingham, were arrested after running onto the pitch during the League 2 clash at Priestfield against Accrington Stanley on March 23.

The court heard that during the second half of the game, Kelly and Cooper ran onto the pitch from the Brian Moore Stand to the other end of the field and slid on their knees in front of the goal at the Rainham End.

They were escorted off the pitch by club officials and arrested by police.

JUSTICE: The two fans ran the length of the pitch before sliding on their knees in front of the goal at the Rainham End

Both men admitted to the charges at Medway Magistrates' Court on Wednesday, which means they are now banned from attending any football match in England and Wales and overseas for the next three years.

The banning order includes all games from Blue Square South level, which is the second tier of non-league football, upwards.

The orders are a preventative measure designed to stop potential troublemakers from travelling to and attending football matches, both at home and abroad. Anyone who commits a football-related offence can be arrested and a football banning order applied for.

Kent Police football liaison officer, PC Geoff Greensmith, said: "Both Kelly and Cooper, who were clearly intoxicated when they ran onto the pitch, claimed they were unaware that it was a criminal offence.

"They are now fully aware that it is and hopefully this will send out a message to others that this will not be tolerated.

"You will be arrested and brought before the courts and face being banned not just from the club you follow, but all football from the top tiers of the non-league game upwards."

■ **Gillingham celebrate promotion in style by securing the League 2 crown – full pictures and reaction further inside.**

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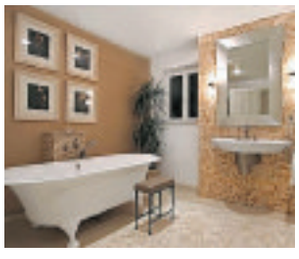

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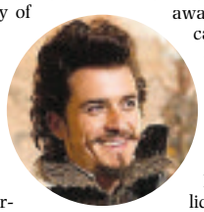
ARTS

Movie star Orlando Bloom adds his support to City of Culture 2017 bid

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

HOLLYWOOD star Orlando Bloom has joined a list of big names to lend their support to a bid by east Kent to become the UK City of Culture 2017.



The actor, who grew up in Canterbury, said it was in east Kent where he discovered his love for acting, which led him to roles in blockbusters including the Lord of the Rings trilogy and Pirates of the Caribbean.

East Kent towns, Ashford, Canterbury, Folkestone and Margate, have teamed up to bid to win the prestigious title, awarded once every four years.

Success would see an enormous publicity injection as well as the chance to host key cultural events such as the Man Booker Prize and the Turner Prize.

Mr Bloom said: "Growing up in east Kent awakened my passion – I hope this bid can do the same for generations to come."

Others backing the bid include TV star Paul O'Grady and musician Jools Holland.

Designer Wayne Hemingway and award-winning architect Sir David Chipperfield have already publicly voiced their support.

This week will see the first submission which will involve a region-wide cultural tour. See www.eastkent2017.co.uk for more.

GAMBLING

£3m Lotto win claimed

THE holder of a winning lottery ticket, worth more than £3 million, has finally come forward – two months after the numbers came up.

The ticket was purchased in Sevenoaks in February and matched all six balls, netting the lucky owner £3,094,304.

But there had been concerns the winner, who wishes to remain anonymous, had lost the ticket after they failed to immediately come forward.

CRIME

Town on peaceful list

SEVENOAKS has been named as one of the most peaceful towns in the UK following a major study into the number of incidents of violent crimes.

The findings were made in the United Kingdom Peace Index (UKPI), produced by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).

Sevenoaks came 18th in the list. The most peaceful was Broadlands in Norfolk.

SUPERSTORE

Tesco conundrum:

Despised by some but essential for others,

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE seemingly relentless march of supermarket giant Tesco across the county may finally have slowed, courtesy of a wave of public opposition and a painful black eye delivered by an apathetic American public.

When the company announced a sharp drop in its profits earlier this month – the first time it has fallen in 20 years – it blamed a highly costly foray into the US market; the fall-out of which would impact on its UK ambition.

Its hopes of establishing itself as a rival to the likes of Walmart came to an undignified end when it pulled out of its loss-making Fresh & Easy stores at a cost of £1.2 billion.

The profit plummet immediately signalled the end of a number of planned developments across some 100 sites in the UK – including at least one in Kent.

Yet while many will rejoice at the news, others will see their best laid plans go up in smoke.

For every campaign group opposing the chain's presence in their towns or in their high streets leaving, as one critic puts it, "empty shops like broken teeth along the high street", there are supporters who point to more choice and value and their ability to act like a honeypot for shoppers and breathing renewed life into dramtically declining high streets.

Campaigns against proposed sites in Paddock Wood, Whitstable, Margate, Edenbridge and a remarkable sixth branch in Gravesham, are all on-going.

Peter Campbell is a member on Thanet District Council. He put forward the motion to reject planning permission for a proposed Tesco Express store in Westgate-on-Sea. It ultimately proved successful.

He said: "It was in the wrong place, in the wrong style and had the wrong design.

"There was a lot of vocal public opinion against the proposal, which did not fit in with Victorian Westgate."

Just down the road, however, and an 82,000-sq-ft 24-hour store has also been proposed for Margate seafront – forming a key component of an overhaul of Arlington House. But following opposition, it is now the subject of a review by local government minister Eric Pickles.

Louise Oldfield, of campaign group Friends of Arlington Margate, explains why there is such opposition: "The size of the store would badly hit existing local businesses and the amount of traffic – 18,000 extra vehicles on a Friday and Saturday – would halt plans for a part pedestrianised seafront introduced to promote a café-culture and attract tourists."

Independent Thanet councillor Ian Driver added: "Tesco has more than enough of a presence here. There are shops at Westwood Cross, in Ramsgate, Broadstairs and Cliftonville. People I have been speaking to feel Tesco should not be hoovering up properties and driving local businesses to the wall. Enough is enough."

And it's not just Tesco-branded stores which rile local folk.

Tesco has a part stake – believed to be around 40 per cent – in the coffee chain Harris + Hoole which wants to open an outlet in the former Clinton's card store in Whitstable. Planning permission for a change of signage has been granted, but no further applications are necessary as the site is already designated for retail.

Objection has come from Save Whitstable Shops, which says the chain is "a wolf in sheep's clothing" because of the superstore's stake.

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Is it saint or sinner?

Nick Ames looks at split views on supermarket

GOOD OR BAD? While many campaign against Tesco stores and their impact on communities, others point to the benefits of such development

Campaigner Brian Hitcham said: "This town has built its reputation on independent stores and people will be fooled into thinking they are going into a small, independently-run coffee shop when in fact that is not the case at all."

Campaigners have called for a boycott of the shop when it does open.

Yet for all the opposition, few cheers were heard when Tesco announced one of the high-profile casualties of its expensive American adventure would be plans for a £110m store at Milton Creek, Sittingbourne.

It pulled the plug just last week on the store and extension of the Forum shopping centre, which it owns.

While the local council was trying to put a brave face on the situation – the planning permission had been held up since late 2011 due to an issue over roads – others were privately saying Tesco's decision was a "huge blow".

Director of regeneration at Swale Borough Council, Pete Raine, said: "We are relieved the uncertainty surrounding this proposal has now ended, and that we can in future look at the site with a fresh pair of eyes.

"In the meantime, we will continue to progress our plans for development south of the railway line with our partners Spirit of Sittingbourne, and we are confident the Tesco decision will not throw those off course. In this context, we welcome Tesco's continued commitment to their store in the Forum."

Tesco has also bought the leaseholds of small businesses on a parade of shops in Paddock Wood and has indicated plans for a new store, while another development project has been earmarked for Edenbridge.

However, both schemes are still in the planning stage and a number of objections have been voiced by people concerned about the impact on small businesses – although some welcomed the proposals as a key weapon in bringing people back into retail hubs.

Tesco, however, remained unmoved by the emotions it triggers.

In a statement, the firm simply said: "We are very proud to serve thousands of customers every day through our Kent stores, providing a vital service for the many local people who choose to shop with us.

"We know our stores bring shoppers to local areas and are pleased other local businesses can take advantage of the customers we attract."

But Steve Dawe of the Kent Green Party encapsulates many of the views of its opponents: "The constant expansion of supermarket giants is killing smaller shops.

"Research shows that after five years of operation a superstore achieves a net loss within a five mile radius of 250 jobs by eliminating small businesses, such as butchers, grocers and coffee shops – the things that give variety to a town.

"What is left is empty shops like broken teeth along the high street."

The county seems destined to remain a battlefield, not just for the likes of Tesco, but for other major supermarket chains too. Whether the tide of development has turned for good, remains to be seen.

■ What do you make of the role of supermarkets in our towns? Share your views. Write to: The Editor, KoS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford TN25 6SS. Alternatively, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.

CRIME

Family reveals agony as court jails brutal killer of 'our beloved Natalie'

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

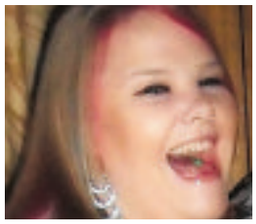
RELATIVES of a 24-year-old woman stabbed to death say the family has been "horrifically ripped apart" by her "senseless savage slaughter".

The comment came as Adam Whelehan, 23, from Sidcup, was jailed for 26 years after being found guilty of the murder of his girlfriend Natalie Jarvis in an attack in a quiet Swanley street last October.

A jury heard she had been stabbed a total of 19 times in her neck.

In a statement following sentencing on Thursday, Miss Jarvis' family said: "Natalie was the most amazing person anyone could wish to meet. She was beautiful inside and out. Her smile and laughter were infectious and the love she had for life, and everyone in her life, was overwhelming.

"Our family has been horrifically ripped apart by the senseless savage slaughter of the most loving sister and daughter anyone could ask for. No sentence is long enough for Adam Whelehan. We cannot get our beloved Natalie back."



VICTIM: Natalie Jarvis

Whelehan had driven to Swanley with co-defendant Thomas Fuller, of Eltham, on October 3 to meet Miss Jarvis to discuss their relationship. By 11.15pm she was dying from stab wounds. Fuller was found not guilty of murder.

DI Gavin Moss said: "Whelehan is a young man, but will be spending the rest of his youth exactly where he deserves to be – in prison."

POLITICS

Boris' brother gets PM role

JO JOHNSON, MP for Orpington and the younger brother of London Mayor Boris Johnson, has been appointed by Prime Minister David Cameron as head of his new policy unit.

Analysts say the appointment to the Cabinet Office is designed to strengthen the political operation in Downing Street and improve the PM's rapport with the party.

OBITUARY

Tributes paid to trust chief

THE former chairman and chief executive of the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust has died at the age of 84.

Lt-Gen Sir Steuart Pringle took the job after his retirement from the Royal Marines and was at the site from 1984-91.

A popular figure, he had overcome great personal challenges, having lost his leg in an IRA bomb attack in 1981.

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BIOGRAPHY

Former Page Three model explains how God guided her away from a life hooked on heroin

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

MEET her today, and Susie Flashman Jarvis would appear to be the model of respectability.

Well dressed and a devoted Christian, she works as a therapist and counsellor in leafy Tunbridge Wells, after nearly a decade running a pre-school group for toddlers.

But her past is full of glitz, glamour, drugs and fame.

After growing up in Tonbridge, during her youth in the 1970s and 80s, she was a hugely successful model – fronting high-profile campaigns for diamond company De Beers, body spray Impulse and taking part in photo shoots around the world.

And for a few short months she modelled for the Sun's Page Three.

Now 56 and a mother-of-four, a chance mention of her past would be the trigger to her penning a book looking back at the highs of a glamorous life, and the lows of an addiction to heroin.

Potholes and Belly-flops plots her struggle to move on from her wild past and was written in response to topless pictures of her being found on the internet seven years ago.

She explains to KoS: "I had a conversation with someone and mentioned what I used to do.

THEN AND NOW: Susie Flashman Jarvis

They went on the internet and put my name into Google and, hey presto, there they were. Up to that point I had no idea they still existed. I was gobsmacked I was on there, absolutely horrified.

"I'm a Christian and I work as a therapist and a counsellor. I have been doing that for around 12 years and when it all came out I felt really ashamed of it all.

"I was quite successful as a model, but I only did Page Three for about six months; it was a small part of my work, and all a very long time ago. There was no internet then so it was very shocking to see them on there."

During her career, Mrs Flashman Jarvis worked alongside Men Behaving Badly TV star and fellow model Leslie Ash on a commercial project for hairspray in the US, starred in bikini and underwear catalogues and also appeared in adverts in Holland and Japan.

But in addition to the successes were dark times too.

"I drifted into heroin from recreational drugs," she explains. "It was very separate to my modelling world though. It was my private life.

"My book is about what it's like to be a Christian when you have a past. How to live in the present while facing up to the fact you have a history and moving beyond it."

And it was religion which, she says, changed her life.

"I had an encounter with God," she admits, "I was healed from my drug addiction after that. It changed everything.

"I moved back down to Tunbridge Wells from London. I met my husband and had four children.

"Which is why it was such a shock to see those pictures come up on the internet."

The therapist now helps others at her private practice and has even got involved with the No to Page Three campaign, supported by the Girl Guides, which is calling for the Sun newspaper to drop the topless image it carries everyday.

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ON THE STREETS: Although there has been a rise in begging in the county town, there has not been a rise in the number of homeless, according to the charity Porchlight

SOCIAL PROBLEMS

Increase in beggars is creating atmosphere of fear on our streets

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

BEGGARS are harassing hard-working people in our county town by claiming to be homeless and in need, warns a homelessness charity.

Canterbury-based Porchlight told KoS it was aware of a number of people who were not genuinely homeless – as they have access to family and accomodation – but instead were begging and squatting in Maidstone.

It came as Maidstone Town Centre Management (TCM) raised concerns about members of the public feeling intimidated by beggars at cash machines.

TCM chiefs said there had been a "noticeable increase" in homeless people visible in the town and problems such as street defecation and needles from drug taking being discarded.

Town centre manager Bill Moss explained: "There certainly has been a substantial increase in street begging in the past few months, and information that these aren't genuine homeless people is bang on.

"The main problem is members of the public feel sorry for them and willingly pass over quite hefty amounts of money to them. I'm told some of them can 'earn' as much as £200 per day by begging on the streets, which I'll bet is more than many of the people handing over their money earn.

"Maidstone has a strong history of helping less fortunate people. Everybody who is currently 'on the streets' is being interviewed to see what help or support is needed and then appropriate agencies are called in.

"Nobody likes to see 'homeless' people huddled in shop doorways and nobody likes to be asked for money by beggars – therefore it must be having a detrimental effect on visitors to the town and therefore on businesses."

Porchlight, which offers support services to rough sleepers in Kent, said it was working closely with Maidstone Borough Council's community safety team to provide support to a group of homeless people in the town.

It said all those on the streets were known to the charity and that Porchlight was helping them to access suitable accommodation.

"We currently know of and are helping 27 people in the Maidstone area who are homeless," a spokeswoman said.

"At present, Maidstone has the highest number of rough sleepers in the county and we are working with 183 people across Kent and Medway."

The spokeswoman said the charity was, however, aware of a number of people who were not genuinely homeless but appeared to be begging on the streets of Maidstone or squatting.

"We are working with other agencies and the council to help resolve this situation," she said.

"Across Kent, we are seeing an increase in the social problems of begging, squatting and genuine homelessness, and they are becoming more visible. However, over the past nine months, referrals into our rough sleeper service in Maidstone have remained fairly consistent."

People living in the town have reported seeing a tent erected outside the now-empty Blockbuster store on Week Street as well as an increase in sleeping bags and evidence of rough sleeping in doorways in the same area.

The Porchlight spokeswoman said: "People who have spent longer on the streets tend to have belongings that make sleeping rough a little easier, such as tents."

Kent Police said a 46-year-old man, Elan Santos Muir, from Gravesend, was arrested on March 4 for begging in Week Street. He was arrested and charged with begging again on March 6, when he was also charged with using words or behaviour causing harassment, alarm and distress. Muir was due to appear in court on Friday.

Chief Inspector Jon Bumpus said: "Where our officers come across incidents of begging, or have begging reported to us, we will investigate and take appropriate action. Kent Police is also working with Maidstone council and our other partners to find solutions for the homeless."

HOMELESSNESS

Maidstone is not the only place to see the homeless setting up camp in disused sites.

The old Peugeot dealership and petrol station on Rheims Way in Canterbury has attracted one homeless person who has built a shelter, including a tent and even a house plant.

The disused site is due for development consisting of five blocks for university student accommodation.

In February, homeless man Daniel Gauntlett, 35, died in freezing temperatures on the doorstep of an empty bungalow in Aylesford.

Shock was felt in the community as to how someone in such poverty was unable to gain the support needed to avoid such a tragedy.

COMMENT

I should be under the spotlight

In her latest exclusive column, Kent Police and Crime Commissioner **Ann Barnes** reflects on the media furore surrounding the appointment of youth commissioner, Paris Brown. The PCC found herself in the eye of the storm following revelations about comments Miss Brown had put on her Twitter site. The teenager decided to not accept the post.

DURING the last few weeks, my role has come under a high degree of scrutiny in the press both locally and nationally.

Certainly I've had to deal with a lot of interest following my youth commissioner appointment and that's quite understandable as a publicly elected figure. I should be under the spotlight and I should be questioned and probed.

I was elected on being open and transparent and that applies throughout the good and bad.

The idea of a youth commissioner is one of my main manifesto pledges and I was elected on this basis by the people of Kent.

I need to draw breath now and reflect.

There will be lessons learnt and an independent report produced and published publicly.

But let's be clear, my commitment to young people in Kent remains stronger than ever.

I still firmly believe there is a place for a Youth Police and Crime Commissioner. If anything this highlights the importance of understanding that there is a difference between generations and how young people are growing up, quicker than ever, with social media at their fingertips.

Throughout this I have kept my eye on the ball, that's the day job; working with communities, focusing on policing and partner agencies.

Some of you may not realise but part of my role is to provide grants to over 30 organisations. I've ploughed £2 milllion into ensuring community groups can carry on with work on domestic abuse, crime prevention, drugs and alcohol to name but a few.

I've been working closely with the force to drive forward my pledges to the people of Kent including visible policing with 100 extra frontline posts being introduced this summer. I'm also very excited about my rural policing manifesto pledge – a major initiative – which will dramatically improve rural policing.

From this summer a fleet of mobile police stations will also be introduced across 180 communities on a scale never seen before.

I've also just held my second Meet The Commissioner event. This was in Faversham and I was delighted to see 90 people turn up. I'm always out and about in the community and will continue to listen and act on public views.

I'm also in the throes of pushing forward my promise to ensure the right facilities for victims at sexual assault clinics.

So there's lots going on behind the scenes and I hope to be able to update you all in my next column.

Best wishes,
Ann

your Kent Police and Crime Commissioner

■ Do you have an opinion on this? Get involved in the debate and share your comments on our letters' page. Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or write to The Editor, KOS, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, TN25 6SS.

PARIS BROWN

Dozens apply to fill vacant role of youth liaison

ANN Barnes revealed she has already received 26 applications from youngsters looking to be the next youth commissioner.

It follows the fiasco over Paris Brown (pictured) which saw the 17-year-old from Sheerness offered the job, only for a national newspaper to reveal messages posted on her Twitter feed which hinted at racist and homophobic views.

Speaking during a question and answer session at the Shepherd Neame Brewery in Faversham this week, Mrs Barnes said: "We have already had 26 applicants. We have had young people writing to us and phoning us up telling us that it is a good idea."

Mrs Barnes also asked the audience of nearly 100 people to forgive Miss Brown and to look forward to a new youth commissioner.

She added: "I think Paris would have been a really good ambassador for us. She was interviewed by very experienced people and they all liked her, she was a very mature young lady.

"But she has learned from this. You have got to forgive.

"What she said was absolutely awful but she has repented for that. She would have been really good but we all make mistakes and we have to move on from it."

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OBITUARY

Tributes pour in for Mike Denness after county cricket club's 'Mr Cool' loses battle with cancer

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

TRIBUTES came flooding in this week for Mike Denness, the former Kent and England cricket captain whose death was announced last Friday.

In what was due to be his last week as president of the county club, Mr Denness died after a battle with cancer. He was 72.

A hugely influential player, he captained Kent during its glory days of the 1970s, a time when the county was its most dominant in the domestic game.

During his time at the club they won six trophies, while he was named Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1975, by the famous almanack, and received an OBE for his services to the game in the last New Year's Honours List.

Born in Bellshill in Lanarkshire, he became the first Scotsman to captain England and once famously dropped himself from the side during the Ashes tour of 1974-75 after a loss; another first for a Test captain.

The Ashes side which lost the series 4-1, comprised of a host of his Kent team-mates; among them Brian Luckhurst, Derek Underwood and Alan Knott.

"He had that extra quality that allowed him to play Test cricket," said Mr Underwood, 67, who played alongside Mr Denness through the 60s and 70s.

HIS SUCCESS

Titles as Kent captain:
John Player League **1972, 1973, 1976**
Benson & Hedges Cup **1973, 1976**
Gillette Cup **1974**

International career:
Tests for England **28**
One-day internationals **12**

COUNTY LEGEND: Mike Denness was recognised as Kent's star during 70s

"He was a free-scoring player and a captain who was very strong.

"He had strong views and stuck with them; a fantastic ambassador for the game. Mike lead Kent to all those victories in the 70s, and he showed great character in many games.

"He was a dear friend of mine. We had many enjoyable games of golf together and sorted out the problems of the world together. He wasn't just a cricketing friend, he was a social friend."

His successor as Kent's chairman of cricket, and former team-mate Graham Johnson, said: "It is impossible to talk about Kent's successful side of the 1970s without mentioning Mike in the same breath.

"It was a family club back then and Mike was largely responsible for that.

"Our children grew up together in and around the ground, the families all socialised together and, because Mike lived so near to the St Lawrence Ground, he'd often host barbeques at his house for the entire team.

"It was a fun time to be playing for the county.

"All of that helped to create strong bonds which followed us onto the field. There was an atmosphere about the place and an aura about us as a side. We forged friendships that tied us together as cricketers and as mates for life, and Mike played a huge part in it.

"It was the very essence of what enjoying sport and playing for each other is really all about."

Another Kent legend, wicketkeeper Alan Knott, added: "What an example as a captain Mike was. He was always great entertainment for the public and his fellow players.

"In all those big one-day games in the 1970s, when the pressure was really on, Mike never panicked. He was the real 'Mr Cool' of Kent cricket."

Former Kent captain and Pakistan all-rouder, Asif Iqbal, added: "When I came from Pakistan to join Kent, Mike was one of the very few cricketers who made me feel so very comfortable and very much at home. He gave me advice, talked to me endlessly about the game and helped me to adapt to the English conditions."

He left Kent for Essex in 1977, where he won another three trophies before retiring in 1980; coaching their second XI from 1981 to 1984.

He then worked outside of the game in finance and insurance, public relations and, for several years, as an international match referee for the game's international governing body the ICC.

He is survived by his partner Doreen. A marriage to Molly ended in divorce. They had a son and two daughters.

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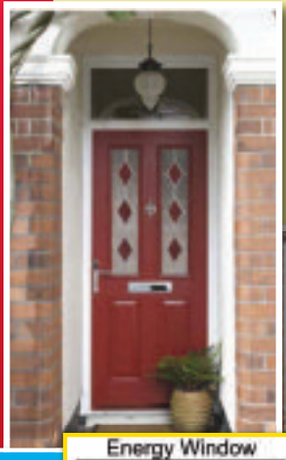

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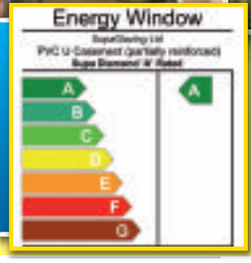

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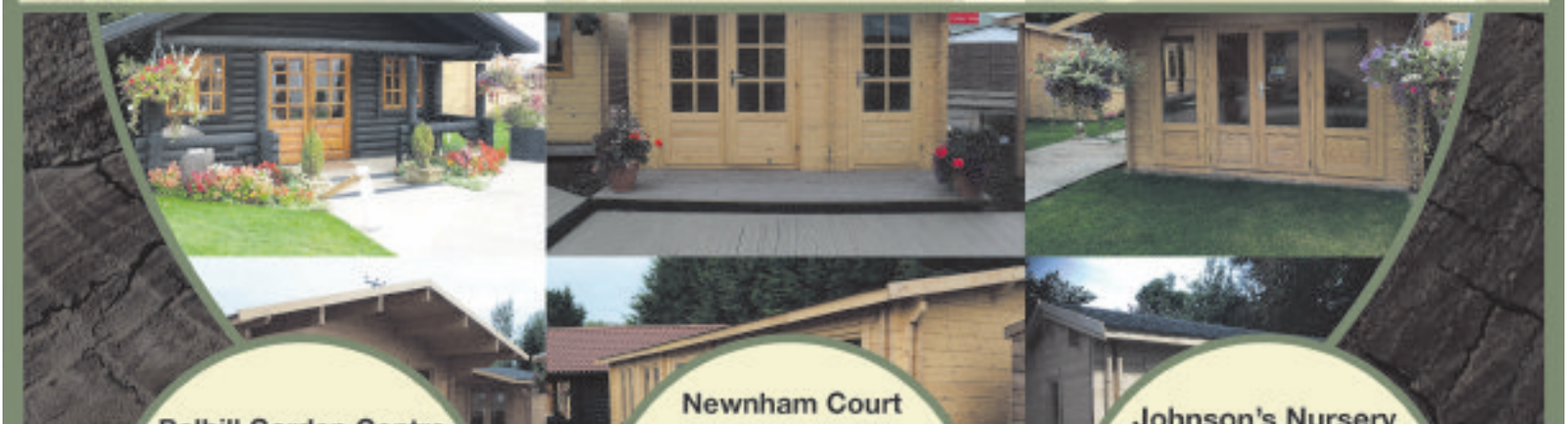

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COMPETITION

Do you have a story to tell?

CONTEST: Kick start your writing career with a 100-word short story

WRITING a novel is a challenge. More specifically, it is about an 80,000-word challenge.

But what if you've got an idea for a story that is a little bit shorter?

Kent County Council is launching a competition, running in May, for very short stories. In fact very, very short stories.

Anyone can enter – the only restriction is that your story should be no longer than 100 words.

And if 100 words sounds a bit too brief, that's part of the fun.

The competition will run throughout May, which is National Share a Story Month, with the winners expected to be announced in mid-June.

Entries will be invited in four age categories, up to school Year 2, Year 3 to Year 6, Year 7 to Year 11 and everyone else. There is no upper age limit; if you can write, you can take part.

Winners will see their stories printed in the pages of this newspaper, and broadcast on Radio Kent. Further prizes are being finalised.

Judging duties will be shared by Kent County Council and Kent on Sunday.

Patrick Leeson, KCC corporate director for education, learning and skills, said: "Listening to stories is one of the earliest memories for many of us. Developing our own ability to write stories is a natural progression of these early childhood experiences and one that allows us to tell our own unique stories.

"Fostering a love of reading and writing is at the core of all who work with children and young people and we are therefore delighted to be promoting a project that encourages chidren to explore their thoughts and experiences in writing.

"The 100-word story competition is all about taking that natural instinct for telling stories and encouraging everyone to turn it in to something fun – and to do a little bit for literacy in the process."

Chris Britcher, editor of this newspaper, added: "We're delighted to be teaming up with KCC to help support this competition.

"Writing a novel is an intimidating prospect – writing a story in 100 words should be less so, but no less challenging. We're looking forward to reading what both young and old alike can achieve in such a short amount of space."

To give you a sense of the challenge, the words in this article amount to around 450.

The competition is running at the same time as Share a Story Month, an initiative from the Federation of Children's Book Groups.

■ **More information about the competition is available at www.kent.gov.uk/100words where you can also find an online entry form and a postal address, if you would prefer not to enter online.**

CRIME

'Menace to the elderly' jailed

A SERIAL burglar described as a "menace to elderly people" has been jailed for eight years after being charged in connection with over 30 burglaries – 11 of them in Kent.

Bernard McDonagh, 48, who did not provide an address, pleaded guilty to 32 offences at St Albans Crown Court.

He was behind raids on homes across the UK.

FIRE

Cheese on toast snack sparks blaze drama

A PECKISH woman who wanted a snack of cheese on toast got more than she bargained for, when she left it cooking under a grill.

Fire crews rushed to the scene in Oak Tree Road, Ashford, where they found the cooker alight.

Ashford Watch manager Mark Thomas said: "We believe the woman had put cheese on toast under the grill but then went to talk to a neighbour."

The woman, in her 50s, was unharmed and the fire quickly brought under control.

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SPORT

Scally: I was so happy I slept with the trophy

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

GILLINGHAM chairman Paul Scally has barely let the League Two trophy out of his sight since lifting it on Saturday, even cradling it in his sleep in his Priestfield office when the celebrations came to an end.

It is just the second time in the club's history that it has won a league title, and it comes nearly 50 years after their first.

After a dominant season they were guaranteed promotion from League Two two weeks ago, but quickly set their sights on the silverware.

They did it the hard way, drawing 2-2 against relegation-threatened AFC Wimbledon which was enough to ensure they will finish out of the reach of second place Port Vale.

It sparked a good-natured pitch invasion from the club's biggest home attendance in nearly 10 years.

"It was a magical day," Mr Scally said. "I would say in my sporting career it beats the days out we have had at Wembley. To be the champions in front of a capacity crowd was fantastic.

"We had a party afterwards, I remember everything up until about 11pm. I know I had the trophy and, by mistake, walked into a private function taking place at Priestfield.

"It has given us a huge lift. I ended up sleeping with the cup in the my office, I woke up with it."

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THERE are even more great reasons to pick up this newspaper over the coming month – and more ways to receive the cream of the county's news during the week.

The coming days will see the launch of a new daily email newsletter, bringing the latest headlines from the news, sport and leisure sections of our www.kentnews.co.uk website.

If you already receive our popular weekend emails – delivering a digital copy of this newspaper straight to your inbox – you will start receiving the daily newsletter automatically.

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What's more, our website's popularity continues to grow – as do the thousands following us via online social networking website Twitter.

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COMING UP NEXT MONTH

County council election results
May 5

After the county goes to the polls on May 2, we will bring you the full results and the new political landscape of the county in a results special.

Adult Learners Week
May 12

A special feature to celebrate the benefits of lifelong learning and highlight some of the events taking place in Kent, as part of the nationwide campaign, you can join in with.

Pure Weddings
May 19

Bursting with ideas to help you start planning for your big day, this special pull-out includes everything from the latest bridal fashion to entertainment and catering trends.

Homes & Gardens
May 25

As spring moves towards summer, we take a look at ways to transform your home and how your garden can bloom into something extra special this year.

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HISTORY

Some 1,000 years after it was written, historic charter finally returns to city home

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A UNIQUE Anglo-Saxon document written in Canterbury almost 1,000 years ago has finally returned home.

The Godwine Charter records the sale of land from a man named Godwine to Leofwine the Red. Written between 1013 and 1020 it is regarded as historically important as it provides a rare insight into Anglo-Saxon daily life.

Written in old English, it also allows scholars to examine the evolution of the language.

Consisting of five lines written in brown ink on vellum, the charter records the transaction as witnessed by Lyfing, the Archbishop of Canterbury and other churchmen including the abbot of St Augustine's, monks, noblemen and prominent citizens – listed as "many good men".

The land is described as a "swine pasture" in Swithraedingden, which is most likely to be the modern Southernden, close to Headcorn.

Rent for the field is recorded as two pounds forty pence and a measure of corn.

The document was acquired at auction from a private individual by Canterbury Cathedral Archives following a £114,500 grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

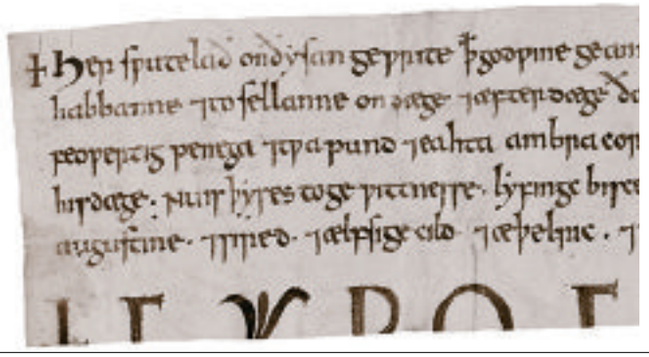
It will go on display at the Beaney Art Gallery and Museum from mid-June, but is likely to be exhibited in the cathedral prior to that.

Around the time it was written, Canterbury was an important place of worship and commerce, but it was just recovering from a Viking raid in 1011, which saw the city burnt and the cathedral destroyed after a three-week siege.

Simon Keynes, professor of Anglo-Saxon at the University of Cambridge, said: "This is a thoroughly local charter from Canterbury, and it would have the power to inspire those who see it to take further interest in their past. I hope the successors to the 'many good men within the city' will enjoy seeing this document, and imagining themselves in Canterbury 1,000 years ago."

Canterbury Cathedral will be holding a public lecture on its Anglo-Saxon charters later this year, as well as a family activity day, when experts will relate them to archaeological finds.

Christopher Irvine, canon librarian, added: "We are delighted to be able to bring the Godwine Charter home, where it can tell its story to all who see it. It is an important part of the heritage of our cathedral, and indeed of our city."



HISTORIC: The Godwine Charter is written in old English and offers an insight into daily life in Anglo-Saxon times

HISTORIC RECORDS

Records of baptisms, marriages and burials from Canterbury dating back to 1538 have now been put online by leading family history site findmypast.co.uk.

They include almost 900,000 baptisms, 100,000 banns, 500,000 marriages and 700,000 burials.

Among the famous figures appearing are playwright Christopher Marlowe, cricketer Fuller Pitch, poet and artist Dante Gabriel Rossetti and Sir George Rooke, Admiral of the Fleet who captured Gibraltar.

Unusual information includes a statement from a vicar, Thomas Patten, about the marriage in 1744 between John Housden "a young gape-mouthed lazy fellow" and Hannah Matthews "an old toothless wriggling hagg".

Historian Debra Chatfield said: "This collection of records is an extraordinarily rich resource for family and local historians and is an important resource for tracing the history of the east Kent area."

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POLITICS

Promises and policies as political parties

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

This Thursday will dictate who controls Kent County Council for the next four years, as voters go to the polls for the local elections. Currently, County Hall is dominated by the ruling Conservative Party who hold 73 of the 84 seats available. But with turn-out traditionally low for local elections, if a party can activate its vote in sufficient numbers, surprises can be sprung. This week all the leaders of the major parties have written articles for KoS as to why they deserve your vote.

Conservative Party

by Paul Carter, leader of KCC

AS WE fast approach polling day on Thursday, May 2, and my shoe leather becomes worn out from delivering thousands of leaflets and knocking on hundreds of doors around the county, it is clear to me voters have a number of important national issues, as well as local issues, concerning them.

The state of the national economy and unemployment among young people is clearly a big issue. If re-elected, we will need to increase the very good momentum to date in creating more Kent jobs for Kent young people – our apprenticeship programme has been the most successful in the country.

Our support to the Kent economy is also creating new job opportunities: the £50 million interest-free loan fund in east Kent and the Thames Gateway will deliver 8,000 new jobs.

On Europe there is broad support for the Prime Minister's pledge of a referendum, but a strong feeling this should be sooner than 2017.

I would like to see a bill introduced in Parliament that would force an earlier referendum; something our liberal colleagues in the Coalition would certainly vote against (better to have tried than not to have tried at all).

Equally important, David Cameron must tell us what changes need to be made in a new relationship with our European partners.

To me, the current terms are outdated and failing member states.

Locally, voters are pleased the Conservatives at County Hall have been able to freeze council tax for three consecutive years, and recognise the good progress in improving education outcomes for all our young people, as well as the need to continue to expand school places.

Here immigration raises its head: I would like to see the national government set out the restrictions they talk about placed upon Bulgarians and Romanians from January 1, 2014.

Now the weather has improved, the 'Find and Fix' pothole gangs will work at full speed – the job will be done effectively as we did two years ago after a similar harsh winter.

Please be patient, we have 5,000 miles of road to repair.

We will continue to support Kent families and Kent business, boosting Kent jobs and opportunities for all.

Labour Party

by Gordon Cowan, Labour leader at KCC

AFTER many years in control, the Conservatives on Kent County Council have run out of new ideas.

Too many decisions taken behind closed doors, with few members of the public attending public meetings – in all, a recipe for complacency and inefficiency.

The Conservatives have cut £95m out of the budget of frontline services, they have frozen council tax to get your vote, but what you are really getting is less for your money.

Senior staff have been given massive pay-offs, but the most vulnerable people in Kent are going without: £18.5m has been slashed from the budget that provides essential services and support for the elderly and disabled.

What's more, the Conservatives are going to pay consultants £5.4m for advice on how to cut that budget.

Youth unemployment is at almost one million yet the Conservatives at KCC have cut the youth centres' budget by £1m.

Through bursaries, a Labour county council would reinstate the allowance that helped students from poorer backgrounds buy school books and bus fares to college. Labour would also expand the number of apprentices at KCC and

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KOS COMMENT

This looks to be one of the more interesting county council elections in recent history.

While the Conservatives are unlikely to lose control, it's a difficult call on how the other parties will fare.

The Tories could lose a number of seats, vastly reducing their majority, but retaining outright control.

Labour is likely to make some headway in gaining back some of those 19 seats lost in the 2009 elections, when the party was practically wiped off the council – a response by the public to disillusionment within the national party and the then-Prime Minster Gordon Brown.

If it overhauls the Lib Dems it will no doubt proclaim it a triumph.

The Lib Dems saw popularity dip in the 2011 local elections following the formation of the Coalition at national level.

But more recent by-elections have shown support growing again which could mean some gains on Kent County Council.

Ukip is the one to watch this election. Predications are the party could take some Tory seats with disillusioned Conservative supporters likely to defect.

But with Europe top of Ukip's agenda, it could be that voters are unsure what the party can do on a local level.

Kent Greens are so far unrepresented on KCC, but this could be its year to gain perhaps one seat in what would be a surprising outcome.

widen the graduate scheme.

Labour will campaign to raise the age threshold for free travel to 18 at all times of the day and to extend the Kent freedom pass to cover 16 to 19-year-olds, on buses as well as trains.

Labour says nobody wants a 10-years-and-one-month-old child sitting an exam one day in September which decides their educational future. We say that can't continue and that the Kent Test must go.

A Labour-led KCC will retain a strong commitment to our children's centres and nursery classes attached to schools; we will protect sports fields from development, while encouraging school sports at all levels.

We will undertake a comprehensive programme of road repairs – the huge number of potholes on major and minor roads make us look like a third world country – and in the longer term we will encourage freight to switch from road to rail.

Labour has a manifesto that represents a real change in the way Kent would be run with power put in the hands of local people, more openness and transparency in the council's services and a new determination to restore the sense of pride in our county that has been so diminished under the Conservative rule.

Liberal Democrats

by Trudy Dean,
Lib Dem leader at KCC

LIB Dems have been appalled at the level of secret decision-making in KCC and would insist all possible meetings are held in public and web-cast, and that the public can email in questions during the meetings.

This includes the locality boards held in each borough to coordinate borough and county council services, many of which are held in private.

We would also give the public the right to speak and ask questions at county council meetings, reduce the number of signatures required on petitions which trigger a debate, and ensure the Scrutiny Committee is chaired by the opposition not at present by the Conservatives, who block many attempts to question decisions.

All contracts should be awarded in open competition.

Maintenance of roads would be a high priority, including restoring the budget cut of £1.6m in road repairs and extending the network which is gritted during icy weather.

Speeding traffic is a constant worry to many people because of noise vibration and pollution as well as safety, and we want improved enforcement of speed limits and the introduction of 20mph limits outside all schools and hospitals and in residential and shopping areas where residents support them.

We want to see Government restore countryside protections removed by the Labour government, reinforce the protections of the green belt and extend it to reflect the increasing pressure from house building in the south east.

KCC under the Conservatives has been much criticised for placing children in care at risk of serious harm, of having one of the worst levels of primary school performance in the country, and one of the worst records in the country for giving children from poorer backgrounds the opportunity to keep up with their peers.

Lib Dems want to focus on raising standards in all those areas.

The policy of allowing elderly and vulnerable adults to remain at home for as long as they can is the right one.

But Lib Dems want to make sure that the decision on care at home or in a residential establishment must be made on the basis of need and not of cost.

Caring for people at home places a great burden on family and friends as carers, and we believe that respite 'holidays' from that responsibility should be more easily available.

Continued on page 24

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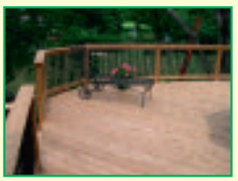

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From regeneration and immigration, on to transport and education, party leaders see better times ahead

Continued from page 23

UK Independence Party

By Piers Wauchope, member of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

A VOTE for Ukip in these elections is a vote to bring democracy back to local level.

The Government is pushing councils to build new homes by giving them a bonus for each new unit built.

To get the Government money, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council has "identified the need for 6,500 new homes" to be built by 2026.

Developers have bought greenfield sites with no planning permission and now want to take advantage of the Conservatives' new planning rules. Ukip would decide planning issues by binding local referendums.

Don't reward the Conservatives for our poor schools. Lack of opposition and scrutiny on the council has allowed the Conservatives to get away with doing a bad job. Classed by Ofsted as the 10th worst primary school provider in the country, Kent proposes to cram hundreds of new pupils into existing schools.

For too long new building schemes have provided no new jobs and no new apprenticeships for local people. Kent's promise to ensure that jobs will be provided for local people on new build schemes is not being applied, because they refuse to monitor the developers.

Ukip insists this must change.

Green Party:

by chairman of Kent Green Party, Stuart Jeffery

KENT has suffered in the hands of the Conservatives.

Whether it is the air pollution generated by the ridiculous amount of traffic on our roads – air pollution that kills around 700 people in our county each year – or the road traffic accidents that killed or seriously injured more than 500 people in 2011; the appalling cost and poor service people using public transport have to put up with; the cost of living; the lack of jobs or the continued assaults on our environment; it is clear the Conservatives have failed us all.

Kent Greens will tackle all these problems head on. We will reduce accidents and pollution on residential streets by introducing 20mph limits where people live, just as other councils up and down the country have. We will invest in public transport, broadband in rural areas, cycle lanes and better pavements to make it possible to leave the car at home more often.

We are the party that cares about people, where we live and how we live. We want a society that is fair and an economy that provides real jobs.

HEAVYWEIGHT SUPPORT FROM PICKLES AND HARMAN

MORE of the main political parties' big hitters came to Kent this week in a last-ditch attempt to persuade the electorate who they should vote for ahead of Thursday's election.

Communities and local government secretary Eric Pickles visited Sittingbourne and Gravesend to rally support for the Conservatives.

"It was a pleasure coming to Kent," he said.

"The county council here works hard for its residents and leads and innovates in many areas."

Deputy leader of the Labour Party and shadow culture secretary, Harriet Harman, dropped into Dover to rally support.

She told KoS: "I think we could see how people voted in the 2010 elections that people felt Labour was out of touch.

"We've had a lot of support in Kent in the past, but so many seats were lost in 2009.

"It was a wake-up call that we needed to get back in touch. There's been a real change and we're putting contestants up for almost every seat (in Kent).

"I think we can tell that people don't see Labour as a strong voice on the council and we take this very seriously. We do believe there does need to be a strong opposition.

"It's important we have Labour representatives who are not just apologising all the time, but understanding what needs to be done for the people in Kent."

How is currently stands at KCC

Conservatives
74 seats

Lib Dems
7 seats

Labour
3 seats

Ukip
1 seat

Swanscombe & Greenhithe Residents Association
1 seat

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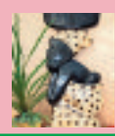

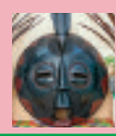

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

Charge of the Light Brigade captain honoured in bronze

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A STATUE to the soldier whose garbled message led to the famous Charge of the Light Brigade has been unveiled outside the former Maidstone church at which he worshipped.

Captain Louis Nolan, of the 15th Royal King's Hussars, died in the Crimean War action which has been immortalised on film and in verse and song.

The charge, recounted by poet Lord Tennyson, is one of the most famous incidents in military history and formed part of the Battle of Balaclava, which took place on October 25, 1854.

But it was actually a colossal mistake which led to the massive casualties. In the space of just 20 minutes, of the 673 troops who took part, 118 were killed outright, 127 wounded and 58 went missing or were captured.

The charge was initiated when Army commander Lord Raglan saw Russian troops advancing on some abandoned British guns and decided to act to stop their capture.

He sent Nolan with the following message to cavalry commander Lord Lucan.

It read: "Lord Raglan wishes the cavalry to advance rapidly to the front and try to prevent the enemy carrying away the guns... Immediate."

However, also in the valley was a heavily armed Cossack gun battery with regiments of cavalry drawn up behind it.

For reasons unknown, when Lucan asked Capt Nolan what guns the message referred to he indicated, with a sweeping gesture, that formation.

Lucan ordered the Light Brigade forward and Capt Nolan

MEMORIAL: Deputy Mayor of Maidstone Clive English at the statue of Captain Louis Nolan

specifically asked to join the attack, which was led by Major General James Brudenell, Earl of Cardigan.

Nolan died early in the charge which eventually reached the Russian guns and wreaked havoc, with lances and sabres spearing and slashing the fleeing Russians to the ground. The Lancers, Hussars and Light Dragoons then chased the Cossack cavalry down the valley despite being outnumbered five-to-one.

Realising they had gone too far and under heavy attack, they were forced to retreat, during which collosal casualties were suffered.

Historians have long argued as to who was responsible. Some put the blame on Capt Nolan saying he misunderstood the order and pointed to the wrong guns, others blame Raglan for the vagueness of his instructions, while Lucan has been faulted for not seeking clarification of what his commanding officer meant.

The charge has been recreated on film twice, in 1936 with Errol Flynn starring in a very fanciful retelling, and in 1968, where a more factual account has David Hemmings as a glory-hunting Capt Nolan.

Tennyson's verse, published just six weeks after the event, including the lines "All in the Valley of Death, Rode the six hundred", made the action famous and Rudyard Kipling lamented the fate of the wounded survivors in The Last of the Light Brigade.

It is believed that just before a shell splinter smashed into Capt Nolan's chest, the officer realised his instructions had been misinterpreted and that the cavalry were riding into the mouths of the massed Russian cannon – and he was trying to halt the charge.

Capt Nolan was riding master at the Maidstone Cavalry Depot from 1851 until 1854 when he left for the Crimea.

After his death, a memorial plaque was installed in Holy Trinity Church, but it was removed when the building was converted into sheltered accommodation.

A copy is now part of the panels on the memorial, made of Kentish ragstone with a bronze resin sculpture of the mounted Capt Nolan.

Stone mason Gordon Newton of East Farleigh and Meltdowns Art Studio of Ramsgate collaborated on the Maidstone Borough Council project.

Capt Nolan had the reputation for being an outstanding officer during his service, which consisted of postings in Madras and Bangalore, India.

But according to his biographer Hubert Moyse-Bartlett: "In so far as Louis had an English home, it was at Maidstone."

He wrote two books on tactics for mounted troops before he set off to the war in Russia, which saw an alliance of Britain, France and the Ottoman (Turkish) Empire fighting the empire ruled over by the Tsar.

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OPINION

Voters need to be inspired

Academic **Peter Abbotts** examines the issues surrounding low voter turnout in local elections and what's needed to remove the apathy

THE elections to Kent County Council, one of the biggest council in the UK, take place on Thursday. But do they matter?

A recent Hansard Society study described the electorate as 'disgruntled, disillusioned, and disengaged'.

Certainly, low turnout has been a factor in recent elections throughout the UK.

Last year, for example, Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes was elected from just 16 per cent of people voting.

In the last county elections in 2009, turnout was some 37 per cent, though this was inflated by the European elections being held on the same day. So too the county elections of May 2005, which coincided with the General Election.

Yet, in comparison, the General Election figures show a consistent 60 per cent of people making their voice heard.

Isn't there a problem with voting at the local level? The Hansard Society suggests only 38 per cent of people want to play a part in local decision making. Yet it doesn't seem to stand up to scrutiny that only 38 per cent of people are concerned with how Kent spends £1.2 billion pounds of your money on, for example, education and social care.

The problem is with the political system. There is a democratic deficit here which explains why so many people aren't voting.

First thoughts are with Kent's Conservative majority. Why would a Labour voter in Kent bother to turn out?

Labour won just 2.4 per cent of the seats across Kent. The news was scarcely better if that voter happens to support the Liberal Democrats as they took 8.3 per cent of the seats in the last countywide poll in 2009.

It is hard, is it not, to justify such voter behaviour when the Conservatives win some 88.1 per cent of the seats?

Debates about the merits of the electoral system can, and have been, offered elsewhere culminating ironically in a disappointing turnout in the referendum on the voting system.

Some further observations are relevant.

- There has undoubtedly been a progressive decline in the number of people who identify with one party or the other.
- So too has there been diminishing numbers of younger voters in elections.
- All political parties are disadvantaged by dwindling membership, resulting in far fewer leaflets and less canvassing of the public.
- In county elections, independents lack the membership of a local party base.
- Voter turnout is lower when expecting a landslide.
- People don't adequately understand – or politicians don't explain – the issues.
- Local government lacks power.
- Dislike of politicians and their expenses.
- Absence of any new ideas to tackle the things we see every day.

There is a democratic deficit which explains why so many people aren't voting

As to the future, Labour has, only this week, mooted plans for a national bank holiday for polling day and entering voters into a prize lottery reinforced by social media.

Gimmicks of this kind mask the real debate. It's quite simple. Voters will turn out to vote when they know that local government has real political and fiscal power, that it is accountable and transparent and not a one-party state propped up by the electoral system.

The jury is out on each of these measures.

Peter Abbotts is head of the department of applied social sciences at Canterbury Christ Church University.

KOS COMMENT

Don't send out message our county is just rubbish

NOT many are lucky enough to call where they live the Garden of England, yet there are still some ignorant to the part they must play in ensuring it remains a county to be proud of; who don't think twice about dropping litter on the floor or dumping rubbish on our streets.

While there's a lot of finger pointing at authorities to clean up mess, it's about time people take some personal responsibility. Yes, sometimes rubbish will fall off a lorry, or blow out of a bin – but much of what we see is just laziness. This attitude needs to change, if not for the sake of the environment, then for the pride of our county. Do we want visitors to spread the word that Kent's streets are covered in rubbish?

Don't miss chance to vote

IT'S easy to think your vote in the council elections will make little difference, that nothing will change.

But this is a chance to have a say and ensure democracy is served.

These elections count and will have a very real impact on your daily life. Do not miss the chance to make your voice heard.

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Rubbish start to county visit

ON a recent trip to Ashford I was appalled by the amount of rubbish along the motorway between Ashford and Dover.

It is not a good advert for the Garden of England.

I appreciate that councils have to watch their budgets but surely people who are receiving unemployment money could be encouraged to help clean up the place?

At least it might deter others from throwing their rubbish onto the side of the motorway.

Bryan Ledger, Germany

Clean up road during daylight

MY hope in writing is that you could possibly highlight the appalling litter problem on Canterbury City Council's section of the A2.

I have tried over a number of years to have this part of the road cleaned properly, but to no avail. It is cleaned, and is due to be cleaned soon. But, just like before, a good job will not be done, and the reason for this is quite simple; they undertake it at night.

I am aware of all the reasons they give for not cleaning a fast moving road during the day, and not excluding cost, but it needs to be done properly, and this means during the day.

Before the grass and weeds spring up to hide this blight for another season, I would like someone to ride this road from Canterbury to Dover by bus and then tell me and thousands of other appalled people that it's perfectly acceptable.

Kenneth Read, by email

Is he driven to oppose it all?

IF it is true, as Mr Hudson suggests it is, that some organisations representing the interests of those visually and aurally impaired are opposed to shared space schemes, then I would agree with him and not take issue any further about them.

I would also say that if a similar scheme was proposed for Tenterden, it being basically a 'one street town', I would agree again that it is probably a very bad idea.

Where I cannot agree with him (as I made clear in a previous letter) is his 'blanket opposition' to 20mph speed schemes. If there is compelling evidence that they are justified at particular locations, then 'opposing for opposing sake' to preserve the status quo, is a redundant position.

I have also challenged him in the past when he appears to be speaking for all drivers and in doing so displays such a negative attitude to every other road user. He now seeks to justify his views by claiming they are not far from his contemporaries because he 'judges people by their actions rather than their words'.

How he would go about proving such a nebulous statement is a matter for conjecture. Perhaps by the number of drivers he's observed breaking the traffic laws? If that is the case, then it's a pretty poor foundation on which to base a campaign of opposition to every proposed traffic measure.

That said, I hope that is not the basis of his campaigning stance because I believe I can finish with an issue on which we would probably agree – the proposal to extend the bus lane in Sutton Road, Maidstone.

Who came up with this idea and why does the council seem to be 'buying into' it? It's a ludicrous proposal that will extend the congestion even further than the speed camera at Longfield (where it commonly backs up to now) to possibly back as far as the police HQ and even Morrisons.

I put forward this counter proposal: Get rid of the useless bit of bus lane, which serves only to prevent those who wish to travel straight on and even turn left into Loose Road from accessing the nearside lane until they're practically at the Wheatsheaf junction.

Get rid of it and move the bus stops on both sides away from the junction and create a 'bus box' at each new location. Drivers would then have more road space to move out and pass stationary buses and get back into the nearside lane before reaching the junction.

Christopher Hudson-Gool. Maidstone

Please vote for change

THE 'hidden message of the election' [KoS opinion, last week by Prof Richard G Whitman] is the apathy the 'Buggins turn' Labour and Tory governments have created while ignoring voters over the invasion of Iraq, the EU, immigration and just about everything else.

They both assume 'democracy' means arrogantly taking power, telling us what we want and ruining the country by changing everything to suit their dogma.

We need a sea change in how people vote and it's essential they vote for what is good for this country. The usual tactical voting, for the same tired old parties that have lost the plot and what they used to stand for, will just give us more of the same.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Thatcher was right for time

WITH reference to Gary Cox's remarks (Letters 14/04/13) about Margaret Thatcher's death and her leadership days, I would like to add my perspective.

When I first came to Kent in the 60s, I moved from having a job in London, a place I hated, to come to Deal for the sea fishing. I found work hard to find, and tried everywhere including down the pits, without success.

I had many friends who were miners and know the hardships they suffered, but they were used as pawns by Arthur Scargill and his cronies with their political ambitions.

I believe this country can produce the right person at the right time - Churchill for one - and Margaret Thatcher was that person, at that time, who broke the powers of the communist unions and rejuvenated the nation.

When there is war, it's the troops who make the sacrifices. Thatcher's comment about "the enemy within" was directed towards 'King Arthur' and his communist cronies, not the working miners.

Frank Davies, Dover.

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DOG lover short of British slim petite lady to maybe get into 1-2-1 relationship and start something new. Smoker welcome, age immaterial, Tunbridge Wells area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404417**

MALE 48, 5ft 10ins, medium build, likes gardening, cinema, reading, WLTM lady. Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404295**

KATIE, sensual curvy figure, well educated, attractive and very adventurous, seeks male for intimate evenings in. Can accommodate, no strings, fun only. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 325325**

LYN happy, young looking 72yr old, seeking interesting man, 65 plus to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403101**

LADY 57, away with the fairies, looking for her wizard and enchantment. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403093**

LIZ blonde blue eyed curvy female, considered attractive, tactile, sensual, enjoys music, entertaining, nice people, seeking well educated professional 50-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402773**

JO 29 tall slim female who loves soaps, animals, shopping, being a mum and am looking for 40's male with GSOH who will appreciate a tactile, loving female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402765**

52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389891**

CAROLINE 60, 5ft 2ins, likes animals, walks, travel, gardening, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402067**

59YR old Kent lady, bubbly, large build, dog lover, easy-going, GSOH, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403071**

KERRY, student nurse, just 19yrs. Very naughty girl! Call to hear what I've got to say, ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 228864**

JAYNE 44 bored, underappreciated pretty blue eyed intelligent lady seeking fun and interesting professional in similar situation to me for discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403011**

CLAIRE looking for adventurous male to live life to the max and enjoy adult fun times with. Go on give me a call. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402993**

GILL 41, shy, lonely single country loving female with no ties, OHAC WLTM n/s genuine, confident male companion for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402799**

AMANDA 36yr old single female, blue eyes, curvy, really pretty with lovely smile, loves music, nights out, WLTM loving male for dates and hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402787**

SHIRLEY 32 attractive nurse, enjoys good food/wine, keeping fit, looking good, searching for non committed relations with mature well-dressed man. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402779**

FEMALE young 60, petite, outgoing, sociable, looking for someone special to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403423**

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899**

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751**

DANCE partner sought by lady beginner in ballroom and Latin American dancing, ideally 55 plus, to visit local dances for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401333**

DIVORCED female, 66, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, seeks male, 65-75 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403275**

21YR old slim figured female, no ties, looking for male 30-45yrs for non committed relationship, discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402761**

CHRIS petite attractive brunette, enjoys social drinks, meals out, theatre, seeks hardworking professional male looking for adult attention too. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402759**

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915**

JOYCE 82, widow, seeking man who is fun loving and good humoured for meals out, 60-70's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067**

LINDA young 62, smoker, seeking gent, 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400521**

SANDRA outgoing 53, carer, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390230**

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SINGLE mum, 35, white British, 5ft 2ins, varied interests, looking for male to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400329**

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891**

ANNA very lonely divorced single mum with lots of love to give seeks similar caring male who also wants to find the right person, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403481**

LISA 39yr old tall slim blonde with GSOH and a wicked sense of humour, employed, OHAC, looking for similar male who enjoys life as much as I do. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403391**

47YR old female, fun loving, green eyes, likes most things, seeks N/S male, 47-52 with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401287**

DELILAH 49, likes animals, blonde, blue eyes, seeking older gent, late 70's who is kind and willing to care about me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403769**

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027**

LISA 5ft 2ins, 43, average build plus a few pounds, blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for man for dates. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401421**

60YR old black female, sociable, seeks romantic, articulate white male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402523**

REBECCA kind, caring, honest, lonely, seeking older gent to wine and dine me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402273**

JAN 54, petite, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394382**

JACQUELINE 82, widow, car driver, not slim, ugly or neurotic, seeks interesting, caring gent, 70 plus for talk and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403659**

BEV very attractive lady who loves cosy nights in, seeks caring man who can put the spring back in my step and twinkle back in my eye, call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403353**

YOUNG looking lady, late 50's, medium build, caring, intelligent, seeks kind, caring, intelligent man with GSOH of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398095**

SHAY 39 looking for fun loving male to brighten up my world! There must be someone out there prepared to take on a feisty attractive professional with OHAC, money in the bank and a great body! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403341**

JACQUELINE widow, 82, easy-going, not ugly or neurotic, good listener, caring, loyal, seeks gent, 60-80 for conversation, company and outings. Sevenoaks, car driver. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403397**

SHARON 37yr old size 10 attractive feminine blonde, divorced with OHAC, seeks nice male who like me is fed up with being on their own. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403351**

KATHY genuine good/young looking lonely female, fit with good figure, seeking man to fall in love with, enjoy adult companionship and happy times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403349**

VICKY petite size 16, attractive, caring, genuine and very much single, likes varied interests, WLTM kind genuine N/S male 40-55yrs for dates hopefully more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403343**

LOUISE blue eyed pretty brunette, size 12, OHAC, professional, enjoys good conversation, looking for someone to make me happy again. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403335**

BLACK African lady, late 30's, no ties, likes country walks, gardening, cinema, seaside, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393272**

DEBBIE 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173**

MARGARET 57, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390248**

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189**

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843**

MICHELLE petite fun female, outgoing, enjoys holiday abroad, OHAC and pretty self-sufficient, looking for someone to share a LTR with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399515**

FEMALE 21, brown eyes, loving, looking for male, 20-30 for nights in and loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396057**

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MICHAEL slim, 44, likes CD, films, seeks older male 55 plus for fun times in the Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404373**

PAUL 49 5ft 8ins likes eating/nights in/out seeks loving female for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404013**

CHRIS 68, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271**

70YRS young male, good looking, GSOH, seeking lady for love and affection. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403455**

RONALD 65 plus, 5ft 9ins, slim, sociable, GSOH, tactile, N/S, many interests, seeking lady dance partner to learn ballroom and Latin. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403211**

SWANSEA man, 51, 5ft 6ins, slim, seeks slim female for nights in/out, company, walks, talks and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402033**

TED 63, 5ft 7ins, average build, seeks female 55-75 for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401913**

EDDIE African male, seeking female, 20-40 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394354**

DENNIS 53yrs retired police officer living in Kent, WLTM female for mutual fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404201**

GARDENER 50, 6ft, honest, happy, single, fit gardener seeks attractive younger lady for fun NSA nights in, weekends away, country walks, picnics and good conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 404115**

BRUCE likes meals out, romantic walks, days out, seeking lady, 40-60 for friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403097**

THANET male, young mid 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive local soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403729**

PRETTY petite lady sought by older, professional businessman, looking for LTR and loyalty. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394530**

SALVATORE 68, N/S, widow, Italian, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402481**

KEVIN 49, single dad, employed, good cook/laugh, seeks female for fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402405**

CHRIS 58, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271**

BRIAN fun loving, happy go lucky, likes walks, animals, cuddles, nights in/out, seeking loving, caring female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402729**

ANDY 36, sexy, fun, come say hello. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402903**

5FT 7ins white male, 50, N/S, looking to settle down. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401897**

BLACK male, 50, bubbly personality, seeks buxom, pear shaped, rubinesque white female, 25-55 for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402887**

PETE 55, good looking, 6ft 2ins, own hair, seeking attractive female, 45-60 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394294**

GENUINE fun loving guy 55, medium build, blue eyes, seeks genuine lady, 45-57 for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401761**

GRAHAM 52, N/S, likes days out, antique fairs, animals, seeks slim, attractive, N/S lady, 40-50 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401727**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easygoing, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401595**

TALL 64yr old young at heart N/S male, widower, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401531**

TONY retired, GSOH, likes indoor life, dvds, seeking N/S lady, 65 plus, likes countryside for friendship. West Sussex area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401481**

TONY 50, likes nights in/out, football, fishing, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394506**

BLACK British male, African descent, medium build, varied interests, understanding, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402641**

ROBERT medium build, single, seeks nice, attractive, busty female with sexy clothes. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402597**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easy-going, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402531**

YOUNG mixed race male, seeking female for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402499**

AARON 35, no ties, 5ft 9ins, clean shaven, attractive, Italian background, chef, down to earth, open minded, likes meals out, weekends away, socialising, cinema, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402497**

BARRY 49, 6ft, well built, easygoing, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401401**

AVERAGE male, 50's, large build, broadminded, OHAC, GSOH, naturist novice, smoker, seeks petite/medium build lady for relationship. Must be uninhibited, broadminded and mature. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401887**

THANET male, smart, young, mid 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive, local soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401399**

CHRIS 51, looking for young female, 25-42, white, slim, N/S for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401395**

HANDCUFFS and whips. Male 49, seeks younger, slim-medium build female for fun times. Chatham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401365**

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STEVEN 63, looking for LTR with man, 59 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402147**

BI guy 45, seeking similar bi guy for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402093**

THANET male, mid 60's, inexperienced, seeks male, any age for discreet fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401915**

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I am a single girl lookin chat to men now **Text HANNA to 60109**

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I love all kinds of music, especially live music and I love talking to new ppl. **Text MICHAEL to 60109**

Help....Help.....can u hear me???Im up here on the shelf an need a hand to get down :-D **Text STACY to 60109**

I am looking to talk to someone who shares similar passions and interests, who is down to earth and knows what they want from life **Text SANDRA to 60109**

Hi all im down to earth but dont suffer fools. im fiery and head strong im looking to talk to like minded ppl **Text PAULA to 60109**

Life can be so beautiful.... so lets talk about it.. looking for men to chat to now. **Text REBECCA to 60109**

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WOMEN TEXT FOR FUN!

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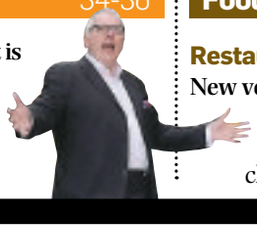

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By **GREG MILES**

Chef swaps her jungle cooking pot for kitchen on the parade

Rosemary and time, with a liberal dash of enthusiasm, are all you need when you sign up to cookery school

CELEBRITY chef Rosemary Shrager is hoping to inspire a new generation of talented cooks at her cookery school, which is opening in Tunbridge Wells this week.

The 61-year-old has relocated from the north to The Pantiles in a new project with Rosemary Shrager's Cookery School, mixing domestic basics with professional-standard training and a deli counter at the Corn Exchange in The Lower Pantiles.

The former host of TV show Ladette To Lady has enjoyed a number of years in the limelight with five books, 10 years of running the Swinton Park Cookery School in Yorkshire and, more recently, turning kangaroo tail into a tasty treat as a contestant on the reality TV show I'm A Celebrity...Get Me Out Of Here!.

'The trend is to go local, try to go for the basics, and do things yourself'

It has been a busy time since she left the jungle last autumn, but the change of scenery in The Pantiles, where she is teaming up with executive chef John Wilson, is matching up to her expectations ahead of opening up for her half-day and full-day courses.

"I've left the north and come south, and I love it. I'm sleeping and working and sleeping and working. It's unbelievable," she said.

"I came down because I was shown this place and I thought 'Wow!'. I love the location, I love The Pantiles. I feel my personality is big enough to cope with this huge place and I thought it would work. It's been lovely.

"I've got some friends who live in Penshurst, so I have come down to stay periodically and I've got to know Tunbridge Wells. I've not lived here, but it's a lovely place to be. It's gorgeous."

She is hoping to make the most of what Kent has to offer in terms of produce and keep with the current trend of going local.

"There are loads of farms and wonderful growing, apples and wines. That's why we're putting on Kentish wine and food evenings. We're doing chef's tables for Kentish food. It's terribly important to support your local food.

"It's important being involved with local people and using local produce.

"The trend is to go local, try to go for the basics and do things yourself. The thing is to learn how to prepare and make things go further. It's about going back to the old traditions. Going back to the traditions of making jams, like our grandmothers used to do. There's a huge trend where you're using every part of the animal."

With the basics in mind, Shrager hopes to inspire people of all abilities while fast-tracking youngsters in apprenticeships.

"I want people to go home with good techniques and develop a passion for cooking," she said. "I feel very strongly about cooking, but you should never patronise someone.

"I don't care what people ask me, be it about how to poach an egg or how to peel an orange. I love cooking all the time. It's not hard to do something different, it's about being brave. For me, it's such an easy thing. I think it's about giving people the inspiration.

"I'm really hoping to take proper apprenticeships – 16- to 19-year-olds who want to cook. And I've got another side where I'm taking people who want to learn privately."

One moment she did not enjoy cooking quite as much as she might was back in the Australian jungle in the ITV series, with the likes of former heavyweight champion of the world David Haye to feed.

"Going into the jungle was a lot harder than I had ever imagined," she said. "We had to tackle boredom as we had nothing to do all day. My priority was to keep my dignity, to keep it together.

"When you're in there, you can't be anything other than yourself. My game-plan was to listen to people for once, but it lasted for five seconds flat. I was so nervous and said all the wrong things about boxing. But David and I are good friends now.

"The thing was, when I got in there, it annoyed me they couldn't cook the beans. They were eating raw beans. I tried to help and they didn't like being told. I made the decision I wasn't going to cook, so I sat behind my trunk. That's why I came across as bossy.

'I don't care what people ask me, be it how to poach an egg or how to peel an orange'

"Because you're so hungry, the food is desperate – there was no time to cook anything worthwhile, although I gave it a go. Even though they were really hungry, they were quite fussy."

Shrager insists she is not as bossy as she may have come across in the jungle, preferring instead a fun approach to her courses.

"I'm not like that at all. I'm not bossy," she said. "I want people to learn. I just want people to have fun and enjoy themselves – I hope I didn't come across too bossy."

So what tips does she have for making the most of simple recipes?

"Learning to cook a duck breast is really important," she said. "And the long, slow cooking is really exciting, like a belly of pork and pressing it. Coming up with your own bacon and curing it with maple syrup – just things like that that you can do yourself.

"Curing is a great thing to do. Curing a whole chicken overnight with honey and lemon... oh my giddy aunt, it's absolutely delicious!"

■ **Visit www.rosemaryshrager.com or phone 01892 528700 if you're interested in joining a course.**

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Celebrate the sounds of the 60s with a trip down Carnaby Street

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

THE sights and sounds of the 60s are coming to Tunbridge Wells in a stage show set in London's ever-colourful Carnaby Street.

It has taken music mogul Carl Leighton-Pope, who lists Michael Bublé and Bryan Adams among his clients, 16 years to get the story of his teenage years to the stage, and it comes to the Assembly Hall Theatre next month.

As an impressionable mod, he hung out with the likes of The Who, whose music, along with that of The Beatles, Manfred Mann, The Animals and The Searchers, features in the show, which is directed by Bob Thomson, of Blood Brothers fame.

Leighton-Pope, who has also been a consultant to the Harlem Globetrotters for a tour of North America, said he had been surprised by the reaction to the show, which started at London's Hackney Empire at the beginning of this month.

"People just got up and danced around the theatre – they weren't even drunk by then," he said. "I'm gobsmacked at the response we have got. It's just been so good."

The story follows the life of a teenager from Liverpool and his arrival in the capital with just his guitar for company, and the highs and lows that follow. It is not too dissimilar to the life Leighton-Pope led himself.

"In 1964 I was a mod and I was 18 years old," he said. "Whatever music you liked clearly defined who you were, what clothes you wore, the girls you went out with. Everything came from the music.

"I was an out-of-work actor and at the weekends I worked at the Marquee Club on the corner of Wardour Street. The Who played there; The Yardbirds with Eric Clapton were the resident band. And on the Saturday everyone went to Carnaby Street – that's where we were.

"At the end of the 1950s, the youth of the era looked at their parents and thought we want to be different. We came out with our pointed shoes on and tight jeans – we were a different era of people.

"The great thing about Carnaby Street from 1962 to 1968 was that it was the place to go. You could walk down it and there would be a Mini parked up and it would be Paul McCartney shopping – you would just bump into all these guys."

Carnaby Street The Musical plays at the Assembly Hall Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday, May 14-18.

There are 7.30pm shows each night, with matinees on Wednesday and Saturday at 2.30pm. Tickets are priced from £19.50-£27.50. Visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk or phone 01892 530613/532072.

Tommy Cooper tribute tour brings comedy legend to life

THE life of fez-wearing comic Tommy Cooper is set to be unveiled in a stage show coming to Margate.

Damian Williams will be starring in Being Tommy Cooper, a new play by Tom Green coming to the Theatre Royal early next month.

The show, which is on a 39-date tour of the UK, explores the life of the comedian, who passed away in 1984 after collapsing from a heart attack live on television.

Cooper captivated his audiences with his calamitous routines, but there was a darker side, which is shown in the performance, revealing the pressures and loneliness that he experienced.

After his television debut on the BBC in 1948, Cooper went on to star in many variety shows in a career that spanned four decades, most notably on London Weekend Television from 1968-72 and on Thames Television from 1973-80.

By the mid-70s he was one of the most successful and recognisable comedians in the world.

The show is on Tuesday, May 7, at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £16, £14 for concessions and £12 for Friends. Restricted-view seats are £10; to book, phone the box office on 01843 292795/296111.

Charleston Chasers... hot as ever

THE Charleston Chasers, billed as the "most authentic and most entertaining group performing hot vintage popular music", are coming to Ramsgate's Granville Theatre next month.

The 10-strong band have just celebrated their 25th anniversary, touring the UK with their renditions of hits from the Art Deco era of the 1920s and 30s. See www.charlestonchasers.com to find out more.

Tickets for the concert, on Saturday, May 4, at 7.30pm, are priced at £16 (£15 Friends Of Granville Theatre, under-16s and seniors). To book, phone the box office on 01843 591750.

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It's Hevy but it ain't at Port Lympne

THE Hevy Festival will not be taking place at Port Lympne Wild Animal Park this year.

Tickets have already gone on sale for the three-day punk and metal festival in August, but the park has issued a statement confirming that no contract has been signed for it to take place at its 600-acre site.

The festival has been at Port Lympne for the last three years, but the park said no agreement was reached after talks at the end of last year.

The festival's website, www.hevy.co.uk, states that it will be held from Friday to Sunday, August 2-4. Organisers have reported that it will still be going ahead this year, but the new venue cannot yet be revealed.

This year's line-up features 80 bands and will be headlined by Killswitch Engage and Black Flag.

Seeds at the Hop Farm

THE Lightning Seeds will be playing this year's Hop Farm Music Festival.

The Liverpool band were formed more than 20 years ago as "the perfect pop project" and recorded a string of hits including Pure, The Life Of Riley and, of course, England's World Cup anthem Three Lions.

They have just been announced as joining the festival line-up, which includes such big-name acts as My Bloody Valentine and Rodriguez.

The festival will be held on Friday and Saturday, July 5-6. Visit www.hopfarmfestival.com for further details.

ON SHOW: Model Red Arrows will be at the event

Model day out for families

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

A FAMILY day out showcasing the best in model planes, cars, trucks, boats and tanks is landing at Headcorn aerodrome in September.

The Second World War airbase will be hosting the Southern Model Show for the first time, the event having been relocated and rebranded.

It started out as an afternoon club on a school field, having been organised by the Croydon Airport Model Flying Club many years ago, and grew to become the premier model show in the south of England. However, last year it became too big for the club's 80 members to manage and was cancelled.

The show has now been taken over by Heritage Special Events, which hopes to attract some 12,000 spectators and participants over the weekend of September 14-15.

Colin Hitchins, of Heritage Events, said: "Heritage Events are working with some of the best in the world of modelling, and the Southern Model Show now has a new home here in the heart of Kent.

"Taking advantage of the superb facilities at Headcorn aerodrome, I am sure the event will prosper and grow and be a magnet for model-makers from across the UK and beyond."

The show will bring with it a diverse range of models, from Daleks to cars and watercraft.

Doors open at 10am on both days and one-day tickets are priced at £10 for adults, £8 for children and £30 for a family of two adults and two children.

Two-day tickets are available for £14 for children, £18 for an adults and £52 for a family. Overnight camping is available at the site from £8 per night.

See www.heritage-events.co.uk for details.

FAB FOUR

The Strand, Walmer Green
Monday, May 6, 8am-4pm
Phone: 01304 381506
Website: walmercouncil.co.uk
Walmer Brocante: Vintage clothing, furniture, housewares, military memorabilia and very much more at Walmer Parish Council's annual event. Entry is free.

Tower Theatre, Shorncliffe
Thursday, May 2, 8pm
Phone: 01303 277175
Email: dwoodland05@aol.com
Frank Griffith and Henry Lowther: Griffith, a top-ranked reed-player from America, is joined by Folkestone Jazz Club regular Lowther, known as the UK's purest trumpeter. Tickets £10.

Stour Valley Arts Gallery, Ashford
From now until Saturday, June 1
Phone: 01233 664987
Email: info@stourvalleyarts.org.uk
Make Believe: Australian artist Holly Story exhibits a series of small woven objects made while living in King's Wood, Challock, for eight weeks. Entrance is free.

Kent Showground, Detling
Wednesday, May 8, 9.45pm-2pm
Phone: 01622 633053
Website: www.kentshowground.co.uk
The Living Land: A free one-day event at Kent Showground for children to learn about farming, agriculture, the countryside and healthy living. Entrance is free.

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Apache will cast its shadows at airshow

AN Apache attack helicopter will be a star turn at this year's South East Airshow.

It is the first time that the fearsome craft will be making an appearance at the event, which this year is being held at Manston airport, near Ramsgate, on Saturday, June 22.

Designed to hunt and destroy tanks, the 2001 Apache can operate in all weathers, day or night, and finds potential targets in seconds.

The attack helicopter display team will perform hovers, twists, turns, wingovers and flypasts and give a glimpse of its Hellfire missiles, rockets and a 30mm chain gun.

Organiser Chris Yates said: "Helicopters are incredible, so we are delighted to confirm we are one of only five shows the attack helicopter display team will be at with the Apache."

Tickets are priced at £12 for adults, £9 for children and senior citizens, £35 for a family of two adults and two children and £30 for a single-parent family of one adult and up to three children – online booking is available only up to 6pm on Tuesday, June 18.

Visit www.heritageevents.co.uk or phone 08456 526263 for more information.

Get up close and personal with Triennial art on tours

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

FOLKESTONE'S Triennial art collection is to be celebrated next month during a weekend of tours and workshops.

The collection of 16 pieces, by artists including Tracey Emin and Mark Wallinger, has been renamed Folkestone Artworks. It was commissioned by the town's Creative Foundation for the triennials of 2008 and 2011.

In time for the bank-holiday weekend of Saturday to Monday, May 4-6, the Creative Foundation is producing a guide map, audio tour and website to encourage the public to re-engage with the works.

The chief executive of the Creative Foundation, Alastair Upton, said: "We want to encourage the people of Folkestone and its visitors to download or pick up a map to explore, experience and discover this gem of a collection.

"Experiencing this new way of looking at art outside the confines of a gallery encourages different ways of seeing, learning and thinking about contemporary art."

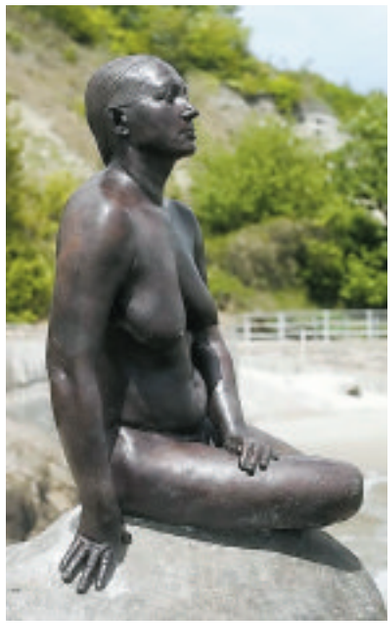
On the Saturday, there are two guided tours. At 11am a special guest will take a two-hour tour starting at Quarterhouse, while at 1pm the Pavement Pounders CIC group will lead a walk. The latter will also do a second tour the following day (Sunday) at 11am.

VISUAL: Works are scattered around Folkestone

At 2pm on the Saturday there is a cultural dog walk and dog party, which starts at the Folkestone Mermaid at Sunny Sands. It then journeys through Pleydell Gardens, with the party taking place at Pae White's Barking Rocks.

On the Sunday, there is a children's tour and creative workshop for under-12s run by theatre company Scandalmongers. Then, on Monday, there is a bike ride starting at 11am from The Hub in Sandgate and making its way to Folkestone harbour. Finally, at 2pm, there is a family fun event run by Scandalmongers.

To book the guided tours and workshops, phone Quarterhouse on 01303 858500. Visit www.folkestoneartworks.org.uk for details.



YOUR **WEEKEND**

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Concert entertainment fit for a king

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

VIP packages are now available for Leeds Castle's open-air classical concert in the summer.

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Military Wives are set to perform at the castle on Saturday, July 13, and you can enjoy the show in style, with a number of packages on offer.

With the VIP package you can check into either your castle or stable-courtyard bedroom before enjoying drinks and canapes in the library and drawing rooms. You can then enjoy a guided tour of the castle with a steward.

A two-course dinner, which includes half a bottle of wine per person, is then served in the banqueting hall. After lunch there is time to relax with coffee to the sound of the piano in the drawing rooms.

The start of the concert is announced by the firing of cannons on the castle island, accompanied by the serving of Champagne.

The special treatment does not stop there, though, as during the concert you will receive a hamper of wine, desserts and cheeses. Tea and coffee will be provided during the interval.

Following the fireworks finale, hot supper and hot toddies will be served in the library and drawing rooms.

Residential guests will get a full English breakfast the following morning.

Prices start at £285 per person to depart at midnight or from £390 per person including a stable-courtyard bedroom or £450 including a castle bedroom.

For more details, phone 01622 765400.

Capital photography exhibition supports county deaf charity

A PHOTOGRAPHER from the county town is supporting a deaf charity with a preview night for his latest exhibition.

London: Night & Day, by Matt White, opens with the charity preview and an auction in aid of Hi Kent on Wednesday, May 1.

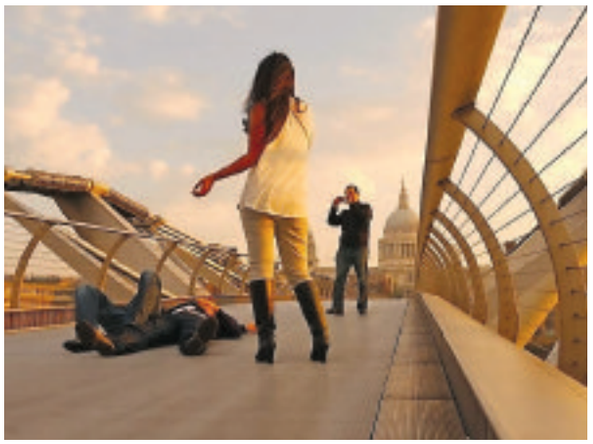
The exhibition focuses on architectural landscapes using sunrise, sunset and the reflective properties of the Thames.

Matt, who lives in Maidstone, said: "Hopefully, these shots give a feel of central London, its beauty and colour at all times of the day, whether it's 4am on a deserted South Bank or in the middle of a demonstration in the City.

"To be able to support Hi Kent with an auction of art by members of Making Art Work and Stepping Stones is a bonus as it is something that affects me personally."

The exhibition will be at Stepping Stones Studios in Museum Avenue, Maidstone, until the end of May.

Free tickets to the preview can be booked by phoning Hi Kent on 01622 691151 or Matt on 07990 782298, or in person at Stepping Stone Studios.



FAB FOUR

Preston to Stourmouth
Saturday, May 4
Phone: 01304 241806 (Diane)
Website: www.whitecliffscountryside.org.uk
Spring walk: Weather permitting, the blossom will be putting on a show in the orchards. Meet in the car park at Preston village hall for the four-mile walk; dogs on leads. Suggested £1 donation.

Avenue Theatre, Sittingbourne
Friday, May 3, 7.45pm
Box office: 01795 471140
Website: www.avenuetheatre.co.uk
Gambit: Presented by Screen @ The Avenue, Gambit is the tale of an art curator who seeks revenge on his abusive boss by conning him into buying a fake Monet. Tickets £4.

Godinton House, Ashford
Monday, May 6
Phone: 01233 643854
Web: www.godinton-house-gardens.co.uk
May Day: From 11am, activities and attractions will include the Whirling Skirmish folk band, maypole dancing and the Homewood Travelling Farm. Admission £5 for adults, £2.50 children.

Hilderstone, Broadstairs
Saturday, May 4, 7.30pm
Box office: 0845 2626263
Web: www.sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk
Kindly Leave The Stage: A farce charting the off-stage squabbling between the players of a rep company. Tickets £12 to members of the Sarah Thorne Theatre Club, £14 to non-members.

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**

A bright new venue for all you budding thirty-somethings

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

FOLKESTONE has had its fair share of criticism in recent years, mainly from those who live there and many in the 25-plus age range, who say there is little to offer in the way of bars and restaurants.

The heady days of La Parisienne, now Club Onyx, are well behind those hitting the 30 mark, and while there are a few bars for those who prefer to steer clear of drinking alcopops and dancing on a sticky dance floor, to be honest, there's not really that much to offer.

In terms of restaurants, while Rocksalt is undeniably lovely, most don't have the bank balance to become regularly acquainted with it. Others, meanwhile, are too far out, meaning that visitors miss out on areas such as the charming harbour and Creative Quarter.

Whisperings throughout March, however, hinted at a new kid on the block – a contemporary Mediterranean restaurant called Blooms @ the 1/4. Located at the bottom of The Old High Street, it boasts a smart exterior, floor-to-ceiling windows and an outside seating area.

Attentive waiting staff, with good knowledge of the wine and food, work alongside a team in the theatre-style kitchen, while the spacious, smartly-decorated interior – and a menu packed with seafood, meat, pizza and pasta – show that

the owners clearly mean – and want – business.

My guest chose ramiro peppers with haloumi cheese to start and I went for the seafood cocktail. We selected a bottle of white wine to share.

The prawns, which came in their shells, could have done with more flavour and seasoning, but the delicious chilli mayonnaise made up for that. The peppers were perfectly cooked and tasty but again lacked seasoning. Both were beautifully presented – a theme throughout the meal.

For the main, I chose creamy Gorgonzola rigatoni – a bowl of rich, creamy pasta topped with peppery rocket that delivered everything it promised. My guest selected the Blooms burger. This was not your Average Joe burger but a delicious piece of meat with a home-made roll, Mozzarella and salsa so delicious that I ate half of it!

The atmosphere had been wonderful, the staff were friendly and there was an exciting feel about the place.

The dessert, unfortunately, was a let-down. While my Eton raspberry mess was presented superbly, it lacked real punch. The meringue on the top was tasty, but once that layer had been eaten all that was left was a bowlful of seemingly never-ending, rather bland, cream.

After a creamy main course, I just couldn't manage it and even trying to scrape the raspberry coolie, placed artistically on the side of the plate, on to the cream didn't help.

Despite the meal finishing on a bit of a low, the restaurant was lovely and the meal tasty (our total bill was £64), if lacking seasoning. Any new business has teething problems and in this case I'll happily take a gamble and say this restaurant is destined for a bright future.

Margaret Hall

■ **Blooms @ the 1/4, 2-4 South Street, Folkestone CT20 1RW (phone 01303 250397; web www.bloomsfolkestone.com)**

St George's tribute ale will put fire in your jar

TO celebrate St George's Day, Faversham brewery Shepherd Neame has launched its Dragonfire Ale.

The brew, described as "full bodied and rich with a mellow mahogany hue", will only be available for a short time as a tribute to England's patron saint.

Bitter in taste, Dragonfire will be at 4.5 per cent strength both from cask and bottles, which are on sale in Shepherd Neame pubs around the county.

If you want the taste, be quick as stocks are expected to run out before the end of the month as the brew is a one-off and won't be brewed after this weekend.

Eco-cheese dreams become a reality

THE UK's first carbon-neutral cheese delivery was completed last week by Winterdale. The Wrotham business has become well known for creating cheeses using only natural resources, including solar-power heating and under-soil cold-cellars for storage.

Eco-fans saw the launch of the first-ever delivery as owner Robin Betts set off from his farm to deliver to a number of restaurants in London using an electric and solar-powered car.

He said: "We've been working tirelessly towards a greener future for the company. We believe our cheese demonstrates how you can can eat great-tasting but sustainble food."

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Homes & Gardens

Don't rush to put tender plants into the ground when it's cold

GARDENING WITH THE EXPERT
JEREMY SHIRLEY

PROVERB of the month: 'A swarm of bees in May ensures a wagon full of hay'. Don't we need both?

Yes, we need the bees and, much to my surprise, these little winged gardeners that give us honey as well as invaluable pollination have survived well through the vicious winter.

Talking of which, only shortly after my previous article, we saw another couple of centimetres of snow here, on April 5.

I had cause to go into a large garden centre to buy an aerator for my tropical-fish aquarium as my old pump had died.

What did I see? Young potted fuchsias and geraniums (pelargonium) on sale to plant in the garden. Quite disgraceful.

On BBC's Gardeners' World on April 12, Monty Don wisely gave words of caution not to plant out tender plants yet. Pot them on and keep them in the greenhouse.

IN A BUZZ: Bees should be considered welcome pollinators of flowers and food in any garden

The garden-centre trade was furious and in The Sunday Times of April 14 vented its anger about the harm that this item had caused it.

But Monty's advice could not be faulted. This proves what I've said: some garden centres seem not to care a damn. You should instead give moral support to your genuine local nursery.

Now, with longer and sunnier days, nature is at long last slowly waking up. But, echoing the words of Monty, you must still exercise caution with tender plants.

Fuchsias are my wife's speciality – do not plant them out until after May 21 as frosts are still lurking to catch out the unexpected.

The effect of frost has a peculiar habit, since you can have a problem in one part of your garden while another area can remain untouched.

A handy tip I learnt in my early days of market gardening was that if a crop had been frosted before sunrise but irrigation was implemented to wash it off, usually the crop could be saved.

If, however, the plants were left to have the sun on them, they would be doomed.

Earlier this month, Radio 4 issued a warning to gardeners about the massive build-up of slugs following the incessant rain last summer and autumn – so what's the answer?

Avoid slug pellets outside at all costs as they are frequently taken by birds and even cats and dogs. Few people know that a mulch of rotted oak leaves, coffee grounds and even broken-open tea-bags spread around those plants now emerging from winter slumbers, such as hostas, delphiniums and rows of seedlings, can be protected

Continued on page 52

FUCHSIAS: Tender plants should not be planted out yet as they'll be at risk of failing under frost

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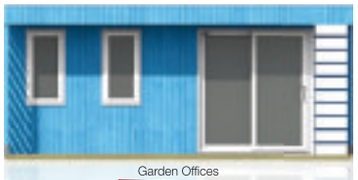
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Homes & Gardens

Sow little and often

Continued from page 51

by such a method or by watering an infusion of these leaves into the soil.

As for us at Victoriana, we invented a product called Banish that, when watered into the soil, can keep these perishers away, while slugs' eggs below ground will disappear.

Tomato-planting time is now upon us and our trials in summer, including tasting, have found much interest. We grow in our own organic compost to ensure the highest lycopene content and flavour, as found in soil-grown tomatoes in the 1940s and 50s.

Did you see the Channel 5 TV programme Horse Meat And Other Food Shocks, in which it was claimed that today you would have to eat 10 tomatoes to obtain the same nutritional value as one tomato from the 1940s?

It was also claimed that salad leaves went through a chlorine treatment stronger than that in a public swimming pool.

One tomato I discovered from America in 1973 is called Pixie, a compact bush variety that can be grown in a two-litre pot on a windowsill – delicious fruit around the size of a golfball.

Pixie can be easily propagated from side-shoot cuttings to crop all year round. And, yes, I've had Pixie fruits at Christmas.

The vegetable garden now really comes into its right own and I advise sowing little and often to avoid a glut.

I think it's daft to sow too much, as one does see on allotments rows of runner beans 20 feet long. No average family can consume so much – avoid waste. The long season is around two months and Victorian climbing peas are a must.

A tip that I must give when the flowers emerge is to spray with a natural insect repellent – this will avoid the annoyance and waste of maggoty peas.

Later, in May and early June, is the time for planting sweetcorn. Lark is a fairly recent introduction and both tender and sweet, while Seville is a variety that can stand a lower growing temperature and is a good selection with which to follow up.

Climbing French beans are always prolific croppers and many old folk will recall Smedleys at Faversham, which used to process Blue Lake, grown in Kent.

Globe artichokes and cardoons planted now should be cropping late summer and are, of course, perennial.

Practise a later sowing of broad beans such as Sutton. Steamed and served cold in salads imparts a better flavour – but remember to pick 'em young.

Since commencing this, I have just cut the first asparagus from our unheated nursery polytunnel. Connovers Colossal, Jersey Knight and Mary Washington are excellent.

Douce Provence peas are in flower and carrots sown in December 2012 are now 10cm tall despite the great freeze and no heat. It is amazing how the solar warmth even on those dull, sunless days advances the season.

Potted fruit trees, bush fruits, bramble and cane fruits and nuts can still be planted now and through the summer months, along with grape vines.

Why not give sea kale a go? This was once a very popular vegetable. So much has been lost

from cultivation, including the everlasting cauliflowers.

Delicious tumbleberries – a cultivated alpine strawberry still found in French and Scandinavian markets – are superb for jam-making, as they remain whole when cooked, unlike ordinary strawberries that go to mush.

In 1953 I found in Elmshorn, Germany, a most interesting strawberry trained up poles – to this day I consider it the finest-flavoured strawberry of all.

Sometimes I train on a trellis to enjoy fruit free from slugs. It is not grown commercially as it has no long-term storage life – it needs to be picked fresh and eaten within a couple of days.

Moving on, Old Spice and Spencer sweet peas may be sown and planted now – grooming by support will reward you with the stardom of this once so very popular cut flower.

Perhaps I inherited my father's interest because I still grow the varieties he favoured, such as Winston Churchill and Air Warden, both of which are still available in a good Spencer mix.

My son, Stephen, has made a good clearance for a display of pretty plants that we shall be setting out later this month based on both annual and perennial favourites, many from a time gone by.

You will also find a large carpet of plants for bees and lovely butterflies that I named after my seven-year-old granddaughter as Milly's Bee Mix.

I am offering £25 worth of stock for the first person to tell me who wrote: "Gardening is such an interesting colourful occupation; to many it becomes a delightful hobby and a happy form of recreation; whilst to others it is never much more than a back-breaking ordeal but I believe we all, deep in our hearts, have a love of flowers and trees and nature's handiwork; it is a part of the English character."

Now, who wrote that?

Not a pretender, like the so-called presenters of gardening today. Oh yes, it was a while back before Fred Streeter's time – remember him?

Come the summer – it will come, you will see – and you can plant the sun-loving calypso magic from the Portulacaceae order of plants and the old-fashioned Morning Glory Ipomoea – remember those deep-purple ones of the 1940s? Older folk will.

BRING BEES INTO THE MIX!

THIS MONTH JERRY IS OFFERING MILLY'S BEE MIX – A COLLECTION OF SEEDS TO ENCOURAGE POLLINATING INSECTS TO YOUR GARDEN.
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to ensure you have a continuous food crop

I am often asked what to plant in shady places. What better than old-fashioned foxgloves, which should have a modicum of sunlight?

After flowering and having let their seeds drop, only then cut them down.

I know gloves can be a bit of a nuisance, but you must wear them – latex ones are fine, cheap and disposable. A woman died cutting down foxgloves or Digitalis, having absorbed through her skin that which, while used synthetically in heart medicine, can in excess be harmful – but do not be put off from growing them.

Add some sweet-perfumed violets, a few Victorian everlasting polyanthus and a scattering of bluebell seeds. There you are – a mini woodland retreat.

Soon many people will be suffering from hay fever – a nightmare for me for more than 40 years... streaming eyes, itchy mouth and throat and sneezing, until I discovered feverfew.

Naturina is rich in antihistamine – the leaves of this bitter-tasting herb taken all the year round at breakfast prevent hay fever and give relief to those with joint pains and arthritis.

I've had much praise from elderly ladies who have had relief from swollen, painful joints, being able to remove rings from swollen hands and knit again.

Another amazing herb is Aloe vera barbadensis, which can relieve symptoms of eczema, ulcers, burns and stings. It rebuilds damaged skin tissue. Do not confuse it with the seedling Aloes sold in many garden centres – ours can only be propagated from offsets. No home, kitchen or sunny windowsill in a workshop should be without one.

GOOD ENOUGH TO EAT: Peas are an excellent crop for the garden; opposite, tomatoes can be cultivated all year round with just a little care and attention

Stephen, Mark and Brian have recently planted a small orchard here and shortly our vegetable trial gardens will be under way. Late? Yes, due to the poor weather and excessive rainfall.

Like many, we are more than six weeks behind. Stephen is also setting out a mini vineyard and visitors will soon see the new grape arbour construction besides a carpet of colour.

Finally, my thanks to everyone who took up my March offer of a free selection of Granny's Favourites – little Molly's collection of cottage-garden seeds.

■ Jeremy Shirley developed Challock's Victoriana Nursery Gardens; you can visit www.victoriananursery.co.uk to find out more.

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Pretty and pink, the radish doesn't need to remain humble

RADISHES are one of the most popular salad vegetables that can be grown in the garden, and they are in season from now until October.

They have been part of global cuisine for hundreds of years, making up dishes from French radish sandwiches to Mexican beef wraps with radish and avocado salsa.

Renowned for their peppery flavour and crisp texture, radishes are a versatile, fresh and tasty cooking ingredient, adding a kick to anything from salads to stir-fries, whatever the season. And, of course, they taste fantastic when simply dipped in salt.

They are a fast-growing crop, progressing from seed to eating plant in 25 days, making them the first UK field-grown salad vegetables to come into season, in April.

And at just five calories a serving, radishes are officially the lowest-calorie vegetables and also low in fat. Plus, they consist of 95 per cent water – making them a great way to help boost hydration levels.

Fiona Beckett, food and drink matching expert, said: "I've always loved radishes since I went to France as a kid. There's nothing more summery, whatever the weather, than a plate of fresh radishes, a pat of good butter and some freshly-baked bread.

"Recently, I've discovered they're much more versatile, that you can add them to salads or use them as a colourful topping for spreads. And – great for someone who's on a diet – that they're incredibly low in calories.

"When it comes to matching wine, I like to go for crisp and fruity – fresh-tasting unoaked whites and rosés and light, fruity reds. Light lagers, cider and fresh citrussy cocktails are great options, too.

"In France they'll often put a plate of radishes on the table with a carafe of local wine to sip and nibble as you decide what to eat. It's a nice thing to offer at home, too, before the meal kicks off."

Radishes have been cultivated for thousands of years, originating in China, then being grown in ancient Egypt and Greece before finding their way to England in the mid-16th century – and into Shakespeare's play, Henry IV, which includes the lines: "Like a man made after supper of a cheese-paring: when a' was naked, he was, for all the world, like a forked radish, with a head fantastically carved upon it with a knife."

RADISHES AROUND THE WORLD

Mexican beef wraps with radish and avocado salsa

Spanish colonists brought the radish to Mexico in the 16th century and it's been a popular ingredient in Mexican food ever since, providing a texture contrast and a fresh peppery flavour to many dishes.

Polish farmer's radish and soft-cheese sandwiches

This is a twist on Twarozek, a typical Polish dish popular in springtime; it is a combination of ricotta, sour cream, chives and radish spread on rye bread.

Indian spiced radishes and pumpkin stew

The radish is particularly popular in the north of India, where it grows abundantly, appearing in many different dishes such as sambar or vegetable stew and radish paranthas (Indian flatbreads). In this dish, the radishes are stir-fried with herbs and spices, while the sweet taste of the squash offers a contrast to the radishes' peppery bite.

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AS bed-and-breakfasts go, The Salutation in Sandwich comes in somewhere near the top of the scale.

The smallest amount you'll be shelling out for a room is £160, although you'll be able to sleep soundly in the knowledge that the sum does include breakfast.

In truth, The Salutation is substantially more than your average B&B – an 11-bedroom stately home built by Sir Edward Lutyens in 1911-12, it is the first 20th-century house to have been Grade I-listed.

It incorporates Gertrude Jekyll-inspired gardens (marketed as The Secret Gardens of Sandwich), a separate four-bedroom house and two cottages. And now the whole pile been put on the market for £4.5 million.

Dominic Parker (of the ParkerSteel dynasty and whom you might have seen with wife Stephanie passing judgement on the evening's TV on Channel 4's Gogglebox) bought the property in 2004 after it had suffered more than a decade of neglect. He spent some £3m, and an awful lot of time, restoring it to its current glory.

So why, after all the hard work, are he and family looking to move on?

"We want to retire, really," he said. "We've got to the stage where it's quite an undertaking – it's almost as though we've turned it into a shop and we're now living above the shop.

"We did up the gardens because we thought they should be shared, while we bought the house as a home, but it's become more work than home. Now we'd like to have some time off, relax and go on a few holidays with the family – chill out a bit."

And then what?

FOR SALE: The Salutation is very more than 'just' a stately home... it has beautiful grounds as well

"I've loved doing the project and I'd love another project – although possibly not quite as big as this."

The B&B is still "fully operational – the full thing", says Mr Parker, who in 2011 saw a peak of some 28,000 visitors, many of whom would have savoured the tea room or bought plants – a lucrative return from the gardens.

Although no one has yet travelled to The Salutation with a view to buying it, Mr Parker says the "feedback from the estate agent [Knight Frank] has been quite exciting... whatever that means in estate-agent speak".

With children still at school in the county, the next "project" will be in Kent, so presumably Parker eyes are peeled for any such possibilities, but, as he says, "we have no idea of when, how or if it [The Salutation] will sell", so such a venture may be some time off.

You assume there must be heartache in the leaving behind of such a place, but Mr Parker hesitates.

"Yes and no, really," he said. "I love the place, but I'm getting old [he's a whopping 49 this year] and I now wear glasses – I spend about 40 minutes a day looking for the damn things.

"When I go to bed, it takes a long time to close everything down – everything's a long way away. It takes about 45 minutes.

"I'm on my feet all day long. We employ up to 36 people and my home is my business.

"I suppose we're lucky enough – we fell in love with the place and we've brought it back to where it is now. There are no complaints."

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Not in the Army now: six homes with a rather special history

ON PARADE: The six remaining former MoD homes at Chattenden Lane to go on the market can be viewed at an open day

A RANGE of properties with a difference is going on sale this spring as the last in a batch of former Army homes go on sale in Medway.

Ten of the 16 family properties at Chattenden Lane, Chattenden, have already been sold and potential buyers will get the opportunity to view the remaining six during an open day on Saturday, May 4.

The houses, which were formerly family homes of officers from the Royal School of Military Engineering based at Chattenden Barracks, have been released in phases by Annington Homes. This is the final tranche following earlier releases in March and April.

There has been an impressive refurbishment and buyers will get to enjoy new baths, showers, dishwashers, fridge-freezers, ovens and carpets.

In short, there has been "a complete redecking", said David Fleming, of LSL Property Services, the company that manages the agents (in this case Your Move) selling the former Ministry of Defence (MoD) homes across the country.

It might all seem a little complex at first, but LSL is essentially the 'middle man' between the MoD and Annington, the company formed to buy the country's stock of military married quarters.

Most of the houses were still occupied at the time of sale to Annington – indeed many still are by Forces personnel and their families.

Having been bought by Annington, the homes are then leased back to the MoD, which uses them until they are no longer required. At that point, they are given a new lease of life and put on the open market.

"The MoD is really the sitting tenant – when it doesn't need the homes any more, they are released," said Fleming. "The prices and the level of refurbishment are determined by what condition they're in and the basic need of the local market.

"There are guide prices – here they are £165,000 for the three-bedroom semis and £200,000 for the four-bedroom semis.

"There were 40 viewers on the first open day [in March]. A few were from London, but most were local. The refurbishment lifted the homes and local family buyers have really taken to them."

Annington became one of the country's largest owners of residential properties when it bought more than 57,000 married quarters from the MoD in 1996. Since then, it has managed their regeneration and subsequent return to the national 'open' housing stock – thus far, some 17,000 homes have been sold.

The open day at Chattenden Lane on Saturday, May 4, runs from 10am to 1pm.

You can visit www.annington.co.uk/properties-for-sale/kent-chattenden-chattenden-lane for more details on the properties, or phone Your Move on 01634 253322 if you would like to attend the open day.

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Quote MR11-KOS

22 to 25 November, 2013

We had a fabulous Christmas Party at Mill Rythe resort on Hayling Island in 2012, so we're doing it all again this year. We've booked the whole resort so we can bring you this great value party break. You'll enjoy great variety entertainment including a Grease movie screening and tribute show, Bee Gees & 70s hits with a tribute to Staying Alive, a fancy dress party and a host of nostalgic fun. Plus there's a £1.50 Bar from 6pm to midnight every night, and the Good News Holidays team onsite to ensure everyone has a good time.

INCLUDED: £1.50 Bar from 6pm to Midnight every night – house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation – upgrades available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Leisure facilities: Indoor pool, sauna

Mamma Mia & Super 70's Christmas Party

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Isle of Wight

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Quote NO11-KOS

29 November to 2 December, 2013

Great Entertainment, Free Drinks, Free Car Ferry and a super location make Warner's Norton Grange resort, on the Isle of Wight, our most popular Christmas Party venue. This Christmas we're featuring a Mamma Mia movie screening, an Abba tribute band, a fancy dress party and lots of festive and nostalgic fun. Plus there's a Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every night.

INCLUDED: Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every evening for house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers, tea and standard coffee • Full Entertainment & Activities programme • 3 dinners & 3 breakfasts • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation • Car ferry crossing worth £45

Back to the 50s & 60s 99p Bar Party

3 nights, half board+99p Bar

£119pp

Quote PF5-KOS

31 May, 2013

You're invited to our private party to celebrate the decades with arguably the best music, fashion and fun of the 20th century – for over 40s only – at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. Enjoy a 99p Bar every night, and great variety entertainment including 50s & 60s tribute bands, fancy dress party and a host of nostalgic fun.

Mamma Mia & Super 70s 99p Bar Party

3 nights, half board+99p Bar

£119pp

Quote MM6-KOS

28 June, 2013

We're taking a trip down memory lane to the 70s & 80s when Abba reigned supreme and their music was on everyone's lips. Enjoy a 99p Bar every night, and great variety entertainment including a Mamma Mia movie screening, Abba and 70s tribute bands, a fancy dress party and a host of nostalgic fun.

BOTH BREAKS INCLUDE: 99p Bar 6pm to 9pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

Enjoy a relaxing break with 99p drinks from 6pm to 9pm every night at one of these Britannia Hotels - the largest privately owned hotel chain in the UK.

Hotel	Date	Nights	Price pp
Grand Burstin Folkestone	10, 17 & 24 May Includes nightly entertainment	3	£89
Grand Hotel Scarborough	13 & 27 May Includes nightly entertainment	4	£109
Prince of Wales Southport	24 May	3	£89
	20 May	4	£99
Scarisbrick Southport	24 May	3	£89
	20 May Includes nightly entertainment	4	£99
Bosworth Hall Leics	13, 20 May	4	£119
	31 May	3	£109

PRICE INCLUDES: 99p Bar from 6pm to 9pm every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • 3 or 4 nights in an en-suite hotel room with dinners & breakfasts • Entertainment where stated

You cannot book these deals with the hotels direct.

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Resort	Date	Nights	Price pp
Children age 2-13 sharing with 2 adults half price			
Southport	6, 13 & 20 May; 3, 10 & 17 June	4	£99
Lancashire	10 May; 21 June	3	£75
Camber Sands	6, 13 & 20 May; 3 & 17 June	4	£99
Sussex	7 & 21 June	3	£75
Brean Sands	6 & 13 May; 3, 10 & 17 June	4	£99
Somerset	14 & 21 June	3	£75
Prestatyn	6, 13 & 20 May; 3 & 10 June	4	£99
North Wales	10 May; 7 & 14 June	3	£75
Special Private Party Breaks - for over 40s only			
Pakefield	31 May - **50s & 60s Party**	3	£119
Suffolk	28 Jun - **Mamma Mia & Super 70s**	3	£119

PRICE INCLUDES: Breakfasts & dinners • Electricity • Towels & bed linen • Entertainment

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Technology upgrade is a sign of the times

AYLESFORD'S Royal British Legion Industries (RBLI), which supports service personnel, has invested more than £250,000 to modernise its sign printing business, ahead of the Government's launch of new road signs for tourist destinations.

It is now just one of three businesses in the UK which can produce the new designs and is hoping to land a lucrative contract as a result.

From July, the brown heritage and tourism signs will be revamped as part of a strategy to boost the country's tourism.

Sites will then be able to swap their existing old brown signs for new ones that can include a full colour photograph.

RBLI, which provides training, jobs, housing and welfare support for members of the Armed Forces and disabled and vulnerable people, already produces signs for the road and rail industries.

Now, the purchase of a new Zephyr Digital Printer means the charity can produce the improved tourism and heritage signs.

The new signs will be made of flexible, reflective polycarbonate which makes them visible even in semi-darkness.

Robert James, commercial manager, said: "Investing in the new technology is a quantum leap forward for RBLI's social enterprise business.

"Not only does this investment mean we can produce the new tourism signs, it also enables us to further improve quality and shorten the length of time it takes to make our existing range of signs – reducing the cost to the organisation overall."

If you have a business story, **Nick Ames** would like to hear from you. Telephone him on **01303 817181**, or alternatively email **nick.ames@archant.co.uk**
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Hundreds of jobs to go as Coke bottling group swings the axe

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

UNION bosses have described plans by fizzy drink giant Coca-Cola Enterprises to axe hundreds of jobs in the UK – including some who work at the Sidcup site – as a "devastating blow".

The firm said nearly 300 jobs could go, with sites hit including Bristol, East Kilbride, north London, Northampton, Sidcup and Wakefield. In total some 288 redundancies could occur.

The Sidcup bottling plant has been up and running for more than 50 years and been a major employer in the local area.

A spokesman for Coca-Cola Enterprises said: "Following a strategic review, we are proposing to end our direct delivery service in Great Britain. This service is primarily used by foodservice outlets and we have identified the need for a more efficient way of distributing our products.

"We have now started a full consultation on these proposals with our employee representative bodies and the Unite trade union. If these changes were implemented they could result in the loss of approximately 288 roles from a total workforce in Great Britain of 4,400.

"We do not make these proposals lightly and we will, of course, be looking to minimise redundancies as far as possible and will offer support to help colleagues through this process."

Union Unite, which represents around 160 of the drivers and warehouse workers set to lose their jobs, says it will be "seeking greater clarification" of the full impact.

Unite national officer for food and drink, Jennie Formby, said: "This news will be a devastating blow for our members and their families, especially in the current economic climate of austerity, welfare cuts and now rising unemployment.

"It is too early to make a detailed analysis of the announcement. However, our immediate priority must be to get full details of the reasoning behind this decision and to examine what alternatives there could be for our members.

"Cola-Coca Enterprises is a highly profitable and successful global company and we will be doing everything in our power to protect jobs."

The news comes just days after the Coca-Cola Company announced profits were down 15 per cent due to a sales dip in the US and Europe.

STRATEGIC REVIEW: Coca-Cola Enterprises is consulting to cut 288 jobs across Britain

THE COMPANY

Coca-Cola Enterprises (CCE) spun out of the main Coca-Cola Company in the mid-1980s in a bid to consolidate its independent bottling groups.

Today, it is the world's third-largest independent Coca-Cola bottler and has sole licensing rights to bottle products of the Coca-Cola Company in Belgium, France, the UK, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden.

CCE makes, sells and delivers a host of products, among them Coca-Cola, Diet Coke, Coke Zero, Fanta, Dr Pepper, Sprite, Schweppes, Schweppes Abbey Well, Glacéau, Relentless, Powerade, Oasis and 5 Alive. It also makes, sells or delivers Monster, Appletiser, Ocean Spray and Capri-Sun on behalf of other owners.

Law Society honour for future president

SOLICITOR Jonathan Smithers will reach the summit of the legal profession in three years' time when he takes on the prestigious role of president of the Law Society

The 50-year-old is a partner with CooperBurnett in Tunbridge Wells and has been named as the next deputy vice president of the body.

He takes his place in July and 12 months later becomes vice president before the following year being automatically elevated into the top job.

The Law Society is recognised as the world's foremost body when it comes to regulating any legal system. It represents 160,000 solicitors from England and Wales working around the world in an industry worth £28 billion a year nationally.

"The British rule-of-law is the most respected around the world, so the Law Society is very big on the international stage," said Mr Smithers. "It is the regulatory and representative body for all solicitors and is particularly important to the City of London. Because of the regard for British law elsewhere in the world many companies maintain overseas offices so its influence is huge."

The top offices in the society, which has its base in London's Chancery Lane, are open to self nomination and 100 members are able to cast their votes.

Mr Smithers heads up the residential property team at CooperBurnett. He joined the firm in 1984 as a trainee lawyer, qualified in 1986 and became an equity partner in 1990.

He achieved success in the Law Society election against four other candidates.

The three top posts follow one another automatically and in the first year a deputy vice president is expected to give 25 per cent of their time to the role and 75 per cent to their practise. This rises to 50-50 when the next rung of the ladder is reached and to 100 per cent in the year as president.

"Effectively I have taken a three-year sabbatical," said Mr Smithers. "I was delighted to be chosen and even though I thought I had a good chance it is a great honour, both for myself and for CooperBurnett."

The Law Society is responsible for putting into effect the policies solicitors in England and Wales are required to follow. It has 22 committees that regulate all aspects of the legal profession.

RECOGNITION: Jonathan Smithers

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Times look good for University of Kent in administrative excellence

SERVICE: Can uni lift prize?

THE University of Kent has been shortlisted in the Times Higher Education (THE) Leadership & Management Awards.

It is in the running in the category for 'outstanding departmental administration team'.

This award aims to recognise outstanding work in departmental administration, with excellent communication and balanced delivery based on the needs of students, academics and university central administration among the judging criteria.

The university is in the running for its Service Excellence initiative which looks to utilise a wide range of resources, including improving relationships with students and ensuring a sufficient response to service users.

The winners will be announced at a special ceremony in London, due to take place on June 20.

Summer short course programme is launched

A SERIES of summer short courses is once again available through the University of Kent's Tonbridge centre.

The Avebury Avenue site runs the courses throughout the year, with the summer programme getting under way in the coming weeks.

They range from courses on British propaganda during World War II to introductions to topics as diverse as Homer's Iliad and minerals. See www.kent.ac.uk/tonbridge.

Students get special treatment from police

A TEAM from Kent Police attended MidKent College's Medway campus to help assess public services students enrolled on a training programme for special constables.

Specials are volunteer police officers who have full police powers, uniforms and equipment and work alongside regular officers.

Lecturer Kat Topps said: "We are proud of our relationship with Kent Police and grateful several specials and assessors visited."

FRESH: Academy's ambitious designs for new buildings came to fruition when they opened in February

Oasis adds academy to its UK roster of schools

ONE of the largest education providers in the UK has become the lead sponsor of the Isle of Sheppey Academy.

Oasis Community Learning already backs some 28 academies and will replace Dulwich College as lead sponsor.

However, the college will continue to support the academy, along with the other founding partners.

The academy opened in September 2009 and replaced Minster College, Cheyne Middle School and Danley Middle School.

Since then it has seen a steady increase in academic performance although a recent Ofsted said it "needed improvement".

It hopes teaming up with Oasis will see it push on further.

Lord Turnbull, the chairman of governors of Dulwich College, said: "We are proud of the work that has taken place since 2009, particularly now that the students have access to such amazing facilities in the new buildings.

"We recognise that the pace and extent of progress now needs to be accelerated. In order to take the academy to the next level of achievement, we believe that greater work must be done in developing stronger relationships with the wider community, including feeder primary schools.

"Dulwich College, along with co-sponsors Kent County Council and the Diocese of Canterbury, believes this can be best achieved in a new partnership, with Oasis as the lead sponsor but which the founding sponsors will continue to support.

"Over the past 25 years, Oasis has demonstrated a developed understanding of the workings of communities and has pioneered a range of services across the country that help tackle people's needs in an integrated manner."

All the parties to the original foundation of the academy, and the Department for Education, say they are committed to supporting Oasis in carrying forward its work on Sheppey.

Dr Joe Spence, the Master of Dulwich College, says "It was always part of our plan to help in the transformation of education on Sheppey generally rather than simply sponsor one school, and we are delighted Oasis has the resources to ensure this within a far shorter timeframe than we could envisage.

"I also see Dulwich's partnership with one of the major academy chains as a model which should encourage more independent schools to see how they might support the academies programme and make the sort of difference to the maintained sector that they all claim to want to make."

Steve Chalke, founder of Oasis, says: "In our hubs across the country, we have seen that you cannot raise standards just by focusing on what happens to a young person between 9am and 3.30pm – you have to be involved in the whole of their life, and this means working with parents, carers and other parts of the community."

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good-news story, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817000.

Plumber aims high in national contest

A PLUMBING apprentice from K College has found himself in the final of a national competition and in sight of a £1,000 top prize.

Jon-Marc Sullivan spent the Easter college holidays on campus in Folkestone practising what he will need to do for the Grand Final of the National Apprentice of the Year competition, which is being held at Swindon College on May 8-9.

And should he triumph, he could be in with a chance of taking on plumbers from across the world in a WorldSkills contest later this year.

Mr Sullivan, 24, from Ashford, has been studying the level two NVQ diploma in plumbing and heating which is being run over two years with one day release.

His lecturer, Tim Wilson, said: "As a more mature student he has been able to grasp the subjects slightly easier than the rest of the group and he has been able to offer help to his peers.

"The company he works for was set up by his grandfather, Sullivan Plumbing & Heating, and they concentrate on very prestige installations that include multimillion pound water boats and renovation work, so he has inherited some skills as well as working hard to improve them."

Parks work together to build a strong foundation for economy

Special KoS Report **Nick Ames** examines the way Kent Science Park and the Discovery Park are working together to boost employment

IN ADDITION to traditional industry, there is a growing desire to reinforce the local economy's backbone by attracting hi-tech businesses to the county with top-end employment opportunities.

The blow caused by Pfizer's decision to pull out of much of its Sandwich operation exposed just how significant it can be.

The loss of thousands of jobs was not only felt in the local economy and supply chain, but in housing too, as many looked to move out of the area in pursuit of specialist positions elsewhere.

But the county must be on its guard to ensure foreign investors do not come in, hire skilled workers, then promptly decamp elsewhere.

That is the view of James Speck, the man who is entrusted with the future of Kent Science Park (KSP) in Sittingbourne, which alongside Discovery Park, Sandwich, is looking to bring technology-based industry into two areas which have seen significant economic downturns in recent years. Pfizer left east Kent while manufacturing operations in paper and other goods have declined across Swale.

Looking forward, KSP is set to invest £10.8 million into developing space at its current site and it also has a piece of land outside its fence where planning permission has been granted to build.

"The life science sector may be a small one in Britain when it comes to business property," said Mr Speck, who is site manager, "but it is set to be a high growth one in the coming years.

"It is an area the UK excels in. Although the last budget may not have raised much in the way of excitement generally, in terms of science and technology business, it delivered good news in the form of incentives to companies."

Both Discovery Park and KSP are looking to attract the same sort of business into Kent – life sciences, developing technologies, low carbon energy generating firms and pharmaceuticals, as well as media-linked, creative and computing specialists.

The Government's Regional Growth Fund has benefited both, with £35m available for east Kent and £20m for the north.

"If you are a realist, of course in some ways Discovery Park is a rival (to KSP)," said Mr Speck. "But you have to look at everything in a joined-up fashion.

"Whatever they do – or we do – it is going to have a ripple effect and that should mean more businesses coming to Kent."

And when they come, they should be encouraged to stay, Mr Speck emphasised.

"It is vital to keep skills in the county," he said. "We keep talking about foreign investment. But what we do not want is companies to come in here and take the best of our skilled workforce away. If a business comes here we need it to stay for the long-term."

Discovery Park has the same approach. A spokesman said: "We are working together to make Kent the place to do business. Discovery Park supports all endeavours to bring investment to the region, resulting in benefits for the wider community and opportunities for growth.

"As a science and technology park, we offer a specific range of services and facilities, meeting a different set of requirements for businesses. I think Kent Science Park is subtly different to Discovery Park and that together we can offer something for everyone."

A sector of the life science business which has grown up in KSP is to do with food – set to become a pressing issue in the coming years as the world's population increases and its natural resources become even more strained.

Mr Speck said: "We have identified a growing cluster on site of businesses concerned with food protection and security as well as those developing technology which will make food safer."

He added that he was optimistic for the future of the region: "We've been through a very tough economic period but we've now got KSP, Eurolink, the waterside development in Medway, the Paramount scheme in Swanscombe and the whole Thames Gateway development."

THE FUTURE: Discovery Park in Sandwich and Kent Science Park in Sittingbourne are working together to bring new employers into the county

Contracts tendered to small firms keep work local

The "trickle down" effect of high-tech businesses arriving at Discovery Park is being witnessed in east Kent.

The economic prospects of the area took a massive blow when Pfizer withdrew its operations – but there has been a turn around in recent months as companies start to lease offices and laboratories on the site. And when the park came under new management, bosses vowed they would use local businesses as contractors as much as possible.

So far the science facility has worked alongside around 70 east Kent companies, including fire systems installers, painters and decorators, dry cleaners and florists. Among the companies working with the park are Cardy Construction, Sandwich Cars and The Bell Hotel. Cafeteria food is provided by Wellards of Dover and Deal's Meat'In Place, while milk comes from a dairy in Hadlow and bread from the Wilmshurst Bakery in Ash. Launderies in Faversham and Thanet look after cleaning catering staff clothes.

And in its latest move to establish a new corporate image, rebranding of the park is being undertaken by two Margate businesses. DAT 1 and NE Signs are producing brochures, stationery, billboards, exhibition panels and conference information.

Dave Tappy, managing director at DAT 1, said: "When I heard Pfizer was to reduce its presence in Sandwich I saw this as a major loss to the area's economy. However, from DAT 1's perspective, I'm happy to say nothing could be further from the truth.

"Having met with the park directors on site mid-February, we were invited to tender for a range of promotional items to support the rebrand of the site. We have subsequently won valuable supply contracts that will make a real difference to our business.

"We are looking to build relationships with the growing numbers of new tenants that are moving to, or setting up, business."

NE Signs work on signage and has just completed the installation of an internal client directory for the main reception.

Nigel England, managing director, said: "The team have given us the flexibility to design and recommend solutions to meet their high expectations and standards and we are confident that the same relationship can be duplicated with new tenants as the business park evolves."

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

How to market your company at an event

AN event explaining the best ways to market a business at an event or show is to take place on Wednesday, May 1, at Canterbury Innovation Centre.

It includes advice on creating exhbition stands for business to business events without incurring a massive cash outlay. Details of how to attend are available at www.Kentb2b.co.uk. The event runs from 9.30am to 11.30am.

Over-50s call centre celebrates a decade

SAGA is celebrating a decade of operation of its call centre in Thanet this month, which now serves in excess of 1.6 million customers.

The office employs around 600 permanent staff – 37 of which are part of the original team.

Roger Ramsden, chief executive, said: "Our operation has provided a £9 million boost for the local economy in the last year alone."

The company's base is in Sandgate.

Breakfast is the place to develop business

A networking breakfast is being organised by the Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce.

It will take place at the River Centre, Medway Wharf Road, Tonbridge, on Thursday, May 9. Members are invited at a cost of £15, or £20 for non-members of the organisation.

A programme of events continues throughout the summer, including talks on imports and export and marketing.

Local authorities are recognised for efforts

SMALL businesses have given the thumbs up to their local authorities.

Members of the Federation of Small Businesses were asked to complete a survey, with almost half giving Kent a better than average rate of satisfaction for the past 12 months.

The most common services required were for statutory guidance; licensing, followed by food safety, hygiene and consumer protection.

Major investment by top karting circuit

BUCKMORE Park Kart Circuit has announced a major investment in the form of £300, 000 to acquire 65 new karts.

The karts have been constructed to the exact specifications of the circuit and are powered by a 390cc Honda produced engine.

Formula One aces Lewis Hamilton and Jenson Button took their first steps into the sport by racing at the park.

Pub operators looking to expand operations

CROSS Oak Inns, which own The Poacher pub in Tudeley, near Tunbridge Wells, are looking to expand operations.

Business advisors Christie and Co have been engaged to look into ways the company can exploit opportunities in the catering and pub trade.

One of the plans under discussion is improvement and expansion of the Kent pub.

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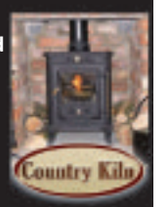

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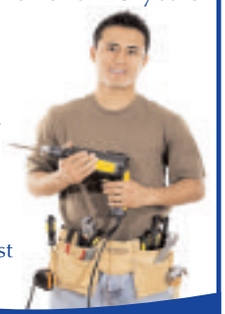

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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

- Chevrolet presses play on latest SUV offer
- Alfa tunes into needs of drivers with music
- Fiat has a deal of its own to tempt you

Santa Fe Trail is on the money with new release

Powered by motors.co.uk

Driving

drive24.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

JAGUAR F-TYPE

Price: from £58,000
Driving appeal: not yet driven
Image: ★★★★★
Space: ★★
Value: ★★★★★
Running costs: ★★★
Reliability: ★★★★
How green?: ★★
Best rival: Porsche 911

Jaguar sharpens its claws

IT wasn't so long ago that industry-watchers were reading the last rites over Jaguar, but the big cat's back.

And this week it sharpened its claws, launching surely its greatest sports car since the legendary 1960s E-Type roadster, described by Enzo Ferrari, no less, as "the most beautiful car ever made".

Some 50 years on, another eye-catching open-top two-seat Jag has arrived: the F-Type (from £58,500) offered with a 3.0-litre V6 engine delivering 340 or 380bhp, or a 495bhp 5.0-litre V8, all mated with an eight-speed manual/automatic gearbox.

It attracted awards ahead of launch, including the World Car Design Of The Year 2013, beating 42 other nominees; were Ferrari still alive, he would no doubt be both purring at and cursing another classy Jaguar rival.

He would have liked the F-Type's long wheelbase and short overhangs that, together with a roadster's classic front engine/rear-wheel-drive layout, hint at excellent handling balance and poise.

But the F-Type is not just about on-road presence; attention to design continues with a fighter-plane cockpit interior, with controls grouped ergonomically according to function and a joystick-shaped SportShift gearbox selecter. And the outer skin hides a high percentage of weight-saving aluminium, a construction Jaguar has pioneered since the XK coupé and convertible arrived in 2006.

Despite technical sophistication, though, some critics say the car looks expensive against Porsche's Boxster (from £37,589), but Jaguar prefers to see its new car as a cut-price rival to Porsche's long-running flagship sportster, the 911 – open-top versions of this start at £79,947.

For well-heeled car fans, though, price considerations surely fall behind the attraction of buying a British rather than German sports car on merit, and one highlighting Jaguar's resurgence of the past decade.

Underlining this, the brand has already launched the XF Sportbrake (from £31,940) this year, an elegant sporting-estate variant of its big-selling XF saloon.

A scorching flagship version of the latter, the XFR-S, priced from £79,995 and capable of 0-60mph in just 4.4 seconds, arrives later this year, too, while two further Jaguar R performance models have been unveiled: the director-level XJR saloon and XKR-GT coupé.

No wonder Ian Barrow, dealer principal of Lancaster Jaguar in Sidcup – the UK's biggest Jaguar dealership – was bullish about the launch: "Customer inquiries about this car started two years ago, many from existing Jaguar fans, but also from buyers of our rivals – we will definitely take business from Porsche.

"We can be proud, too, that this fabulous new car was launched globally here in the UK, emphasising Jaguar's British roots."

ROAR: It's been a long time coming but the new Jaguar F-Type looks to be worth the wait as it brings more style and sophistication to our roads

DON'T LIKE

... waiting more than 50 years for 'the new E-Type', but then you could also argue that the aggressive-looking F-Type was worth the wait.

NOT SURE

... Porsche 911-buyers will be convinced the F-Type is a true rival until they road-test one. Jag-dealers sound confident about the result.

REALLY LIKE

... the heady concoction of great styling, superior technology and, underlying it all, an equally emotive connection with Jaguar's past greatness.

F-TYPE

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JAGUAR

Fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km): Urban 17.8-22.4 (15.9-12.6); Extra Urban 34.0-40.9 (8.3-6.9); Combined 25.5-31.4 (11.1-9.0).
CO_2 Emissions 259-209 g/km.

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Santa Fe scales new heights

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HYUNDAI'S original Santa Fe was the Korean marque's first SUV and is credited with establishing the marque in the US – the nation that sparked the 4x4 SUV craze.

It helped having a name evoking the famous Santa Fe Trail, a gruelling 900-mile Wild West trade route – Santa Fe means 'Holy Faith' in Spanish, so you get the picture. And the car has lived up to its rugged namesake and Hyundai's robust five-year/unlimited-mileage warranty.

The new third-generation Santa Fe upholds the tradition but has also gained more style, with lines apparently inspired by a gathering storm. Whether or not you can pick this out, it's clear that this latest Santa Fe is an eye-catcher and well priced, too.

OK, it's not quite the bargain it was; the previous range started at about 23 grand, while the newcomer begins at £25,495 and that's the two-wheel-drive-only version tested here.

But Hyundai is not the 'cheap as chips' marque it once was; the brand's quality hike over the past five years has been impressive and, even if badge snobs remain unconvinced, hard-nosed post-recession buyers know good cars when they see them.

The Santa Fe still offers five or seven seats, but you can now buy a more economical front-wheel-drive version. Safety kit has also been boosted, with an active hood to aid pedestrian safety (the first on a Hyundai), a lane-departure warning system that's a potential lifesaver in 'tired driver' situations and seven airbags.

Rear load space is a class-best 534 litres with the front five seats upright, and all rear seats can be flopped down quickly with a one-touch release to create a huge (1,680 litres 2WD version) and almost-flat cargo area without a lip to worry about when loading hefty items.

Five seats or seven? The test car was a five and I know from a previous drive that the extra chairs on a seven-seater are only suitable for kids to access and get comfortable in, and with a miserly view out. So, weigh carefully whether to pay the extra £1,200 for a seven-seater.

Turning to what you don't see, Hyundai's shift from value to aspirational brand is also shown by a lightweight/high-strength steel and aluminium body, contributing to deft handling for a car of this bulk. There is some body-roll on the bends, as expected from most SUVs, but the Santa Fe grips well, with excellent refinement and ride comfort – the chassis engineers have got it about right for UK roads.

The car also features Flex Steer, launched on Hyundai's refined i30 family hatchback. This offers three steering settings – normal, comfort and sport – particularly effective for a larger car, where you want a light touch when parking but more feedback at higher speeds.

The cabin is airy and well trimmed and the dashboard well organised, though perhaps a bit uninspired on our Style-trim entry model

There's just one engine – a tweaked 197PS (195bhp) version of the 2.2-litre turbodiesel from the previous car and highly capable, even when towing up to the car's maximum 2,500-kilo braked trailer weight.

Hyundai has made the gearbox choice harder, though, with a lightweight and frugal auto for the 4x4 version, capable of returning 41.5mpg on the official combined cycle against 46.3mpg for the six-speed manual.

The front-wheel-drive eco version is offered with manual only, though, and offers 47.9mpg combined.

For me, the bargains are still the 4x4s: well equipped, smart, durable and comfortable, they are great value against some esteemed and less reliable rivals with posh badges – the smart money has known this for some time.

HYUNDAI SANTA FE STYLE 2.2CRDi 2WD: £25,495

ON TRACK: The Santa Fe Trail more than satisfies our reviewer, ticking the boxes for image, style, space and good value, especially in its 4x4 incarnation

FACT FILE

Driving appeal:	★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★
Road tax:	£175/year
Best rival:	Chevrolet Captiva

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First GEAR
MOTORING NEWS

Chevy makes more SUV Trax

CHEVROLET claims to have invented the SUV in 1935 with the famous Carryall Suburban, but that was considerably larger than the American brand's newest contribution to the sector – the Trax mini SUV on sale from Monday, July 1.

Available with a choice of two petrol or one diesel engine and either front-wheel-drive or 4x4, the Trax is priced from £15,495.

MiTo goes live for music fans

ALFA Romeo has launched the Alfa MiTo Live limited edition (from £16,590) for buyers with a passion for music.

It comes with a premium Bose sound system and Pioneer's AppRadio, which lets users access their smartphone apps through a seven-inch touchscreen.

The MiTo Live comes with the award-winning TwinAir Turbo petrol engine, combining fuel economy, low emissions and impressive performance.

... and Fiat has a 'Me To' offer

FIAT, Alfa's sister brand, is also on the limited-edition trail with the extras-laden Punto Jet Black, based on the three-door version of the brand's popular supermini.

Designed to appeal to a young, sporty audience and looking good value at £12,000, it is available with a zero per cent Personal Contract Payment (PCP) deal for just £99 per month.

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*0% finance available on i10 Style 1.2, i20 Active 1.4 5 door and i30 Classic 1.4 5 door models on Conditional Sale between 2nd April and 30th June 2013. 50% minimum deposit required. Models shown: i10 Style 1.2 at £9,495 OTR in solid paint, £129 per month with £4,851 deposit over 36 month term, i20 Active 1.4 5 door at £12,550 OTR including metallic paint, £159 per month with £6,826 deposit over 36 month term and i30 Classic 1.4 5 door at £14,605 OTR in solid paint, £199 per month with £7,441 deposit over 36 month term. Finance subject to status. Terms & Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Hyundai Motor Finance RH1 1SR. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. Offers are not available for customers under the Hyundai Affinity Programme. 5 Year Triple Care terms and conditions apply. Please see www.hyundai.co.uk or ask your local Dealer.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 25.2 (11.2) – 78.5 (3.6), Extra Urban 38.7 (7.3) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined 32.1 (8.8) – 76.3 (3.7), CO_2 Emissions 231 – 84 g/km.

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ix35

Personal Contract Purchase Representative Example

ix35 Style 1.6 GDi

36 Monthly Payments of	£229.00
On The Road Price	£18,075.00
Hyundai Deposit Contribution	£1,250.00
Customer Deposit	£4,358.00
Amount of Credit	£12,467.00
Interest Charges	£1,939.50
Optional Final Payment	£6,162.50
Total Amount Payable	£20,014.50
Fixed Rate of Interest	3.55% p.a.
Duration of Agreement	3 years
Annual Mileage	10,000
Excess Mileage Charge per mile	14.9p
Representative APR	6.9%*

New Generation Santa Fe

Personal Contract Purchase Example

New Santa Fe Style 2.2 CRDi 5 seat 2WD

36 Monthly Payments of	£329.00
On The Road Price	£26,395.00
Customer Deposit	£9,048.50
Amount of Credit	£17,346.75
Interest Charges	£2,657.25
Optional Final Payment	£8,160.00
Total Amount Payable	£29,052.25
Fixed Rate of Interest	3.55% p.a.
Duration of Agreement	3 years
Annual Mileage	10,000
Excess Mileage Charge per mile	14.9p
APR	6.9%*

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Models shown: ix35 Style 1.6 GDi at £18,075 OTR in Sleek Silver metallic paint at £520 included. New Generation Santa Fe Style 2.2 CRDi 5 seat 2WD manual at £26,395 OTR in Titanium Silver metallic paint at £545 included. On the road (OTR) prices shown include customer saving discounts where applicable. VAT where applicable, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' Road Fund Licence. *6.9% APR available on all Hyundai ix35 models and all New Generation Santa Fe models for retail customers only. At the end of the Personal Contract Purchase there are 3 options: (i) Renew: Part exchange the vehicle, where equity is available, (ii) Retain: Pay the Optional Final Payment to own the vehicle or (iii) Return the vehicle. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle. Terms and conditions apply. Finance subject to status. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Hyundai Motor Finance RH1 1SR. We can introduce you to a limited number of carefully selected finance providers. We may receive a commission from them for the introduction. All offers, finance and savings are subject to availability and are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK (excluding Channel Islands or Isle of Man), 3rd April and 30th June 2013, inclusive, sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised dealers. Offers are not available for customers under the Hyundai Affinity Programme. 5 Year Triple Care terms and conditions apply. Please see www.hyundai.co.uk or ask your local Dealer.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for ix35 Style 1.6 GDi: Urban 34.4 (8.2), Extra Urban 47.1 (6.0), Combined 41.5 (6.8), CO_2 Emissions 158 g/km. Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for New Generation Santa Fe Style 2.2 CRDi 5 seat: Urban 38.2 (7.4) Extra Urban 56.5 (5.0), Combined 47.9 (5.9), CO_2 Emissions 155 g/km.

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Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km); Yaris Range: Urban 41.5 (6.8) – 91.1 (3.1), Extra Urban 62.8 (4.5) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined 52.3 (5.4) – 80.7 (3.5). CO_2 Emissions 123g/km 79g/km.AYGO Range: Urban 52.3 (5.4) – 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 70.6 (4.0) – 74.3 (3.8), Combined 62.7 (4.5) – 65.7 (4.3). CO_2 Emissions 104g/km– 99g/km.

Commercial Vehicles

Are we there yet?

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

PREDICTING an upturn in the UK economy has become like the first five minutes of that long road trip with the kids: frequent choruses of "Are we there yet?"

And the question is particularly relevant to the van market – a barometer for the state of UK plc.

Vans might be less visible and carry less than HGVs, but they oil the wheels of the economy by supplying local deliveries, servicing important sectors like construction and mobilising armies of tradesmen.

Hardly surprising, then, that when the recession tsunami hit us, 60 per cent of the sector's volumes were washed away in 2009 versus the previous year.

Since then, we've had many false dawns for both the economy and this crucial market, but the gloom cannot go on much longer, especially as some existing vehicles are very tatty and need upgrading.

And figures from motor-industry mouthpiece the SMMT suggest that more users may indeed be buying: van registrations rose 11.5 per cent to 43,684 in March and grew 11.7 per cent during the first quarter of 2013, helped by pick-up sales, which are currently also up almost 11 per cent (see inside).

BCA (British Car Auctions) has also reported a hardening of used-van values, which is usually good news for new-van sales: big fleets feel confident about upgrading because they recognise they will get more for their disposals, but it also means smaller operators will choose to buy new rather than pay over the odds for a used van.

BCA says shortage of stock continues to be the key factor for values as businesses retain vans for longer, but group general manager for commercial vehicles Duncan Ward pinpointed another possibility: "With redundancies across a range of business sectors from retail to manufacturing, many people will be tempted to strike out on their own and one of the first things they will buy with their redundancy money is a van."

SOUNDS GOOD: A new van speaks 'volumes' about your business – as Mercedes-Benz and hi-fi brand Pioneer proved with this DJ concept van. Left, pick-ups like the Mitsubishi L200 help pick up the market.

But is a used van the answer for these buyers? With advantageous lease deals and buying plans, a new van also offers the latest comfort levels, lower operating costs from new powertrains and various loading options and configurations such as the Dualiner-type vehicle that can seat five and still carry a decent cargo.

Then there's the feel-good factor: if you are a start-up concern, a new van will make you and your customers feel good about the business.

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Fuel consumption figures for the Fiat Professional range in mpg (l/100km): Urban from 25.9 (10.9) – 64.2 (4.4); Extra Urban from 40.3 (7.0) – 97.4 (2.9); Combined from 33.6 (8.4) – 80.7 (3.5) CO_2 emissions 90 - 222 g/km. Fuel consumption and CO_2 figures are for comparative purposes. †Rental shown based on Ducato Van 35 L3H2 2.3 130 MultiJet on Contract Hire payment profile of 6 rentals in advance. Rentals shown exclude extra cost options, VAT and maintenance. *Rental shown based on Doblò Cargo 1.3 90 Multijet on Contract Hire payment profile of 6 rentals in advance. Rentals shown exclude extra cost options, VAT and maintenance. ▼Rental shown based on Fiorino Cargo 1.3 75 MultiJet on Contract Hire payment profile of 6 rentals in advance. Rentals shown exclude extra cost options, VAT and maintenance. ▲With the passenger seat folded down. Rentals are subject to VAT at statutory rate. Based on 10,000 miles per annum. Excess mileage charges apply. Vehicles must be registered with FGA Contracts before 30th June 2013. Offer subject to status. A guarantee or indemnity may be required. Offer correct at time of going to press (04/13) and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Subject to availability. FGA Contracts, PO Box 4465, Slough, SL1 0RW.

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TARDIS: Far left, the Peugeot Bipper's load space shows just how versatile small vans have become. Left, one of the most familiar vans on the road is Renault's mid-range panel van, the Trafic

Top gear shift for vans

THEY may still look like boxes on wheels but vans have undergone a quantum leap in design and comfort over the past decade.

Operators have seen economy, efficiency and flexibility soar, while drivers now enjoy better performance, refinement and safety.

Many such benefits have come about because of crossover designs from cars.

Initially, this was confined to smaller models derived from hatchbacks; blank out the rear windows and replace rear seats with a load floor and the driver gained all the benefits of the equivalent car-owner, including aircon and a decent sound system

But the philosophy has since transferred to larger vans, sometimes now derived from car platforms, too, even if the van body is bespoke.

Load capacities have also widened, varying from as little as three cubic metres for a courier's car-derived hatchback right up to a 17 cubic-metre delivery van.

Access has improved, too. Many larger vans have low floors in the driving compartment for easy access and most vehicles above supermini class now come with a sliding side-door as standard to aid loading – many buyers also opt for a second 'slider'.

There is now a choice usually of side-opening twin doors or a high-lift tailgate, as well, while cab doors generally have a reduced opening angle, making it easy for busy drivers to grab the handle to close the door yet also avoid it swinging wide and hitting something.

On the performance front, petrol-driven vans have all but been displaced by the better economy, range and low-down pulling power of four- and five-cylinder diesels.

Extended service periods, lower maintenance costs and longer-lasting parts then further compound the benefits of diesel.

The engine's partner, the gearbox, has also changed. Six-speed manuals are the norm – two cogs better than only a few years ago – but urban operators are turning increasingly to automatic, semi-automatic or clutchless transmissions.

These can usually be driven with manual selection anyway but are ideal for stop-start urban traffic and all those small internet-order deliveries – and they can be as economical as a manual.

Van safety has also gained from the car market; along with driver's airbag and the option of passenger, side and front-curtain airbags, there are active safety features including anti-lock braking (ABS), traction control (TCS), braking control (EBC) and electronic stability programme (ESP).

Sparshatts of Kent Ltd., branches at Ashford, Dartford, Sittingbourne and Tonbridge. www.sparshatts.co.uk Tel: 01795 479571

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Step-up 'pick-up truck man'

YOU'VE already heard of 'white van man', but is there now another road-going species – pick-up truck man?

Sales of pick-ups – also known as 'utes' (utility trucks) and 'bakkies' in other parts of the world – have rocketed in the UK lately, illuminating an otherwise gloomy small-commercial-vehicles market and they are still rising: registrations are currently almost 11 per cent ahead of a year ago.

The unanswered question, though, is whether this popularity is due to tax anomalies making the pick-up attractive to private users or whether commercial operators see them as relatively cheap yet capacious recession-busters, available with two- or four-door cabs and – in the case of 4x4 models – able to go most places on a farm or construction site.

Could it be also that traditional off-roaders lack the capacity and have become too gentrified? Or do the interlopers cater for an inner desire to wear a check shirt, jeans and cowboy boots?

And there is no need to rough it, either; dealers find buyers want 'up-spec' double-cab versions that can take the family at weekends, complete with camping gear and so on, all secure and weathertight beneath a removable hard-top cover for the rear loading bay.

But not every buyer of a pick-up wants all the bells and whistles of big-sellers like the Mitusbishi L200 – the vehicle that sparked the pick-up boom – which is why Fiat launched a cost-effective version of its award-winning Doblò Cargo van.

The Doblò Work Up is a 'dropside' vehicle with compact external dimensions suited to towns, though Fiat says it appeals to the agriculture, construction, maintenance or city-parks-services sectors, too.

But this isn't the vehicle for would-be Marlboro Man private buyers and we asked Sittingbourne accountant Ray Backler, of small-business specialist Capsa Accounting, about the tax appeal of buying a 'rough-tough' pick-up:

"Company-car tax is onerous, but the tax regime for vans recognises that most people need these for business, so the burden is more modest. Many in business do not realise that pick-up trucks, including the family-friendly double-cab variety, are classified as vans for tax purposes rather than cars."

BIG-SELLER: Mitsubishi L200: high-spec customised versions like this four-door Trojan model kick-started UK pick-up demand. Above, if you need pick-up flexibility rather than bulk, the Fiat Doblò Work Up could be the answer.

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Merc's new baby... a van for the city

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Space: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★★
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How green?: ★★★★

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

YOU wouldn't normally mention Renault and Mercedes-Benz in the same breath, but they are speaking the same language with the latter's new Citan small van. Or are they?

Sure, the new baby Merc has the profile of the Renault Kangoo upon which it is based, but the French design has been well and truly 'Merc'd' to ensure that it can slot in below M-B's bigger Vito and Sprinter panel vans – this is no simple re-badge job.

Cosmetically, the similarities are there once you look beyond the big M-B badge, grille and headlamps – a sharp contrast with the Kangoo's low-key front end – but the interior is up-spec and there has been much work on refinement, handling and interior trimming.

This means the Citan hits the heights of its sister models as a good place to be for a long day behind the wheel; the level of refinement and easy operation of controls is high-class and electronic stability control comes as standard.

Along with the usual M-B slow depreciation, all this easily outweighs a slightly higher up-front price from about £13,000.

There is also great variety in the configurations with compact, standard and long wheelbase versions and various door options. Apart from the standard panel van, there are five-seat Dualiner and Traveliner minibus or MPV variants, too.

Dualiner is a format that has proved particularly popular with owner/operators buying M-B's Vito as they can use it for family outings while still stashing tools and kit in a load compartment behind; for those would-be buyers who couldn't quite aspire to the Vito Dualiner, this must be the answer – it might even find a niche with the surfer and sporting community.

The Citan might also be the answer to Mercedes-Benz-dealers' prayers. The newcomer's name – an amalgamation of City and Van – says it all: this is the vehicle they craved to complement the Vito and Sprinter, both big-sellers in the UK but sometimes too big for some operators or missing a little brother to include in fleet orders.

BABIES: Right: Renault Kangoo Maxi is the long-wheelbase version of the big-selling French design that formed the basis of the Mercedes-Benz Citan, top

1. Price shown is for an L200 Trojan Double Cab manual. Metallic paint extra. Price shown is a vehicle offer price and includes a customer discount of £2,000, excludes VAT, VED and First Registration Fee (VAT inclusive price is £19,198.80). Prices correct at time of going to print. Offer is only available at participating dealers in the UK, subject to availability, whilst stocks last and may be amended or withdrawn at any time. Offer available between 1st April and 30th June 2013. 2. The 0% APR Representative Finance plan is through **Finance Mitsubishi, 116 Cockfosters Road, Barnet, EN4 0DY** and is subject to status to customers aged 18 and over. Finance Mitsubishi is part of Lloyds TSB Asset Finance. 0% APR Representative Finance rate is better than rates available from high street lenders and requires a 50% deposit, other offers are available, ask for details. Indemnities may be required. Offer is only applicable in the UK (excludes NI, Channel Islands & I.O.M), subject to availability, whilst stocks last and may be amended or withdrawn at any time. Offer available between 1st April and 30th June 2013. 3. 5 year/125,000 mile warranty (whichever comes first) is applicable to new Mitsubishi L200 retail and small business sales and selected Contract Hire agreements. 5 year/125,000 mile warranty excludes NI & Channel Islands, Terms and Conditions apply. Please see www.mitsubishi-cars.co.uk for more details.

Make way for the white van ma'am

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WHITE van man has a mate – white van ma'am.

According to a survey, we need to change our perception of who is behind the wheel of the white van speeding by in the outside lane of the motorway.

That person is no longer someone with discarded drinks bottles and a copy of The Sun, open at page three, stuffed behind the windscreen and carrying a bull terrier as his navigator, but an altogether more discerning individual – and quite possibly a woman.

Astonishingly, the survey from AXA Business Insurance also showed that he or she is likely to be an opera-lover (43 per cent) and more than 60 per cent have not been booked for a traffic offence in the past 10 years, despite more than half spending at least 10 hours a week behind the wheel.

An AXA spokesman said: "Commercial-van-drivers have been given a pretty bad reputation over the past decade, but the stereotypes around them couldn't be further from the reality.

"We're finding that as more and more women are driving vans, coupled with a higher degree of professionalism among the van-driving community, the stereotypical perception of a 'white van man' is fast becoming a thing of the past."

CHANGE: Contrary to popular belief, vans don't all come in white – silver is popular, too. Pictured above is Fiat's flagship Ducato panel van and Peugeot's mid-range car-derived Partner model

It seemed clear from the poll that most van-drivers object to the white van man stereotype; well under half (39 per cent) reckoned it was accurate, but only 8 per cent owned up to being that man.

In any case, a third of the drivers surveyed were women, which might or might not explain why cooking and gardening were high on the list of hobbies, although it seems there are some pastimes that go with the job – 82 per cent of those interviewed regularly go to a football match or watch one live on TV... hopefully not while driving.

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) WAITING RESTRICTIONS ORDER (VARIATION NO. 12) ORDER 2013 THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) DESIGNATED PARKING PLACES ORDER (VARIATION NO. 7) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Orders under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the first named Order (Waiting Restrictions VARIATION NO.12) will be to introduce new or to extend existing waiting restrictions in the following lengths of road (in this part of the notice DYL means waiting to be prohibited at all times by double yellow lines; SYL and loading restrictions means no waiting at the times prescribed below).The second named Order (Designated Parking Places VARIATION NO. 7) will affect parking places.

STAPLEHURST:

Market Street; DYL, North side, From its junction with Station Road to its western junction with Willow Crescent, South side, From its junction with Station Road for a distance of 10 metres in an easterly direction. SYL, Mon-Fri 10 -10.30am, North side, From its eastern junction with Willow Crescent for a distance of 11 metres in an easterly direction, From a point 25 metres east of its easterly junction with Willow Crescent for a distance of 41 metres in an easterly direction, From a point 80 metres east of its easterly junction with Willow Crescent for the remainder of its length. South side, From a point 10 metres east of its junction with Station Road for a distance of 8.5 metres in an easterly direction. From the western boundary of No 17 for a distance of 53 metres in an easterly direction, From a point 1.5 metres east of the western boundary No 24 for the remainder of its length.

Willow Crescent; DYL, West side, From its western junction with Market Street for a distance of 14 metres in a northerly direction, SYL, Mon-Fri 10 -10.30am, From a point 27 metres north of its western junction with Market Street for the remainder of its length, East side, The Whole Length, North side,The Whole length

Winches Garth; South side, SYL, Mon-Fri 10 -10.30am, From the eastern building line of property No 17 for a distance of 6.5 metres in an easterly direction, North side, From the boundary of No 1 for the whole of its length, From a point 2.5 metres west of the property boundary of No 8/9 for a distance of 30 metres in a westerly then southerly then westerly direction, From a point 3 metres west of the property boundary of No 8/9 for a distance of 30 metres in a westerly then southerly then westerly direction, East side, The Whole length, West side, From the boundary of No 1 for a distance of 7 metres in a southerly direction, From a point 21 metres south of the boundary of No 1 for a distance of 16 metres in a southerly direction, From a point 53 metres south of the boundary of No 1 for the remainder of its length.

DESIGNATED FREE PARKING PLACES
STAPLEHURST:

High Street;

To introduce designated free bays Monday to Saturday 8.00am to 6.30pm with a 2 hour maximum waiting time with No return within 1 hour on the East side, From a point 11 metres south of its southern junction with Chapel Lane for a distance of 9.5 metres in a southerly direction, From a point 25 metres south of its southern junction with Chapel Lane for a distance of 19 metres in a southerly direction, From a point 3 metres south of its southern junction with Fir Tree Close for a distance of 17 metres in a southerly direction.

RESIDENTS PARKING

STAPLEHURST:

Market Street; Monday to Friday, Mon-Fri 10 -10.30am with a waiting time of 5minutes, North side, From a point 11 metres east of its eastern junction with Willow Crescent for a distance of 14 metres in an easterly direction, From a point 66 metres east of its eastern junction with Willow Crescent for a distance of 14 metres in an easterly direction, South side, The entire length of the lay-by situated between No.2 Pankhurst House and No.24 Market Street.

Willow Crescent; West side, From a point 14 metres north of its western junction with Market Street for a distance of 13 metres in a northerly direction.

Winches Garth; South side, From the western building line of property No 22 to the eastern boundary of No 17, From a point 6.5 metres east of the eastern property boundary of No 17 for the remainder of its length, North side, From the boundary of 8/9 for a distance of 2.5 metres in a westerly direction.

West side, From a point 7 metres south of the boundary of No 1 for a distance of 14 metres in a southerly direction, From a point 37 metres south of the boundary of No 1 for a distance of 16 metres in a southerly direction.

The Orders were made on the 25th April 2013 and will come into effect on the 3rd May 2013. Full details are contained in the Orders, any Orders which will be amended by the Orders, a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Orders and maps indicating the location and effect may be examined at the Reception Desk, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone ME15 6JQ during normal office hours.

Any person wishing to question the validity of an order or any of its provisions on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that a requirement of any such enabling Act or of any relevant regulations made thereunder has not been complied with, may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made, make application to the High Court.

If you have any questions concerning the made Orders or require further information please contact Maidstone Borough Council Parking Services (01622 602377) during normal office hours.

John Burr, Director of Highways, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) WAITING RESTRICTIONS ORDER (VARIATION NO. 13) ORDER 2013 THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE) DESIGNATED PARKING PLACES ORDER (VARIATION NO. 8) ORDER 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Orders under the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the first named Order (Waiting Restrictions VARIATION NO.13) will be to introduce new or to extend existing waiting restrictions in the following lengths of road (in this part of the notice DYL means waiting to be prohibited at all times by double yellow lines; SYL and loading restrictions means no waiting at the times prescribed below).The second named Order (Designated Parking Places VARIATION NO. 8) will affect parking places.

MAIDSTONE:

Beaverbrook Mews; DYL, Both sides, from its southern junction with Cornwallis Road for a distance of 11 metres in a south-easterly direction.

Brewer Street; DYL, North side, amend current SYL to DYL.

Cornwallis Road; DYL, South side, From its eastern junction with Beaverbrook Mews for a distance of 7 metres in a easterly direction and From its western junction with Beaverbrook Mews for a distance of 8 metres in a westerly direction.

Loose Road: DYL, East side, From its junction with Upper Stone Street to its junction with Barton Road, West side, From its junction with Old Tovil Road to its junction with Sheals Crescent, SYL West side, Mon-Sun 8am-6pm From its junction with Sheals Crescent to a point opposite the southern boundary of No.180 Loose Road.

St Faiths Street; (On access road to Brenchley Gardens). Both sides, From a point in line with the front boundary of the Museum and Art Gallery for a distance of 16.5 metres in a south-easterly direction.

Union Street; DYL, South side, From its eastern junction with Church Street to its western junction with Wyatt Street, and from its eastern junction with Wyatt Street for a distance of 20 metres in an easterly direction.

BOXLEY;

Beddow Way; DYL, North-west side, From a point 20 metres opposite its north-east junction St Michaels Close for a distance of 111 metres in a south-westerly direction. South-east side, From its north-east junction with St Michaels Close for a distance of 20 metres in a north-easterly direction. From its south-west junction with St Michaels Close for a distance of 83 metres in a south-westerly direction.

St Michaels Close; DYL, Both sides, from its junction with Beddow Way for a distance of 36 metres in a south-easterly direction.

COXHEATH

Park Way; DYL, Both sides, extend the current DYLs for a distance of 48 metres in a northerly direction.

DESIGNATED FREE PARKING PLACES

Sutton Road; To introduce designated free bays Monday to Saturday 8.00am to 6.30pm with a 2 hour maximum waiting time with No return within 1 hour.

South-west side, From a point 10 metres from the centre line of the north-west junction with of Mangravet Avenue for a distance of 33 metres in a north-westerly direction.

Tonbridge Road; To introduce designated free bays Monday to Saturday 8.00am to 6.30pm with a 4 hour maximum waiting time with No return within 1 hour.

South side, From the western boundary 141 for a distance of 56 metres in a westerly direction and from a point 69 metres from the western boundary 141 for a distance of 6 metres in a westerly direction

DESIGNATED GOODS VEHICLE PARKING PLACES.

Earl Street; South side, From a point 23 metres east of its easterly junction with Pudding Lane in for a distance of 9 metres an easterly direction

Designated Permit Parking Places

St Faiths Street

URC Bay, Amend current waiting limit of 2 Hours to Permit Holders Only.

PROPOSALS AMENDED: The following previously advertised (Kent Messenger Extra week ending 30th September 2011) proposals are being amended.

Woodville Road; DYL North side, From its junction with Loose Road for a distance of 12 metres in a westerly direction, SYL 9am- 5pm Mon-Friday for remainder of its length South Side, From its junction with Loose Road for a distance of 33 metres in a westerly direction SYL 9am -5pm Mon-Friday for remainder of its length.

RESIDENTS PARKING

Sandling Road, Amend the current waiting limit from 2 hours to 30 minutes in the section of Residents bays between Perryfield Street and Albert Street Only.

Woodville Road; North side, From a point 12 metres west of its junction with Loose Road for a distance of 12 metres in a westerly direction, From the boundary of 28/30 for a distance of 4.5 metres in a easterly direction. South side, From a point 54 metres from its junction with Loose Road for a distance of 4 metres in a westerly direction. From a point 63.5 metres from its junction with Loose Road for a distance of 9 metres in a westerly direction.

PROPOSALS DISCONTINUED: The following previously advertised (Kent Messenger Extra week ending 30th September 2011) proposals are being discontinued:

MAIDSTONE:

Upper Stone Street; DYL, Both sides, The whole length, amend current SYL to DYL.

RESIDENTS PARKING

Amend the current waiting limit from 2 hours to 30 minutes in the following roads.

Albert Street, Alexandra Street, Fisher Street, Penenden Street, Perry Street, Perryfield Street, Randall Street, Scott Street and Sandling Road in the section of bays between Stacey Street and Perryfield Street.

The Orders were made on the 25th April 2013 and will come into effect on the 3rd May 2013.

Full details are contained in the order Orders, any Orders which will be amended by the Orders, a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Orders and maps indicating the location and effect may be examined at the Reception Desk, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone ME15 6JQ during normal office hours.

The deposit documents will also be available in the Main Reception, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XX.

Any person wishing to question the validity of an order or any of its provisions on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that a requirement of any such enabling Act or of any relevant regulations made thereunder has not been complied with, may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made, make application to the High Court.

If you have any questions concerning the made Orders or require further information please contact Maidstone Borough Council Parking Services (01622 602377) during normal office hours.

John Burr, Director of Highways, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone.

OPERATOR'S LICENCE

KARL WHAID trading as Mitcham Building Suppliers LTD of MBS House, 80 Eddington Lane, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 5TR is applying to add an operating centre to keep 2 goods vehicles at MBS House, 80 Eddington Lane, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 5TR

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available

OPERATOR'S LICENCE

KARL WHAID trading as MBS (Gillingham LTD) of Sarena House Bredgar Road Gillingham Kent ME8 6PL is applying to add an operating centre to keep 4 goods vehicles at Sarena House, Bredgar Road, Gillingham, Kent ME8 6PL

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817056

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, in accordance with Section 30 (2) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, Shepway District Council has set the following amounts as the amounts of Council Tax for 2013/14 for each of the categories of dwelling shown below:

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh Shepway District Council

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Folkestone	1049.55	1224.48	1399.40	1574.33	1924.18	2274.04	2623.88	3148.66
Sandgate	1040.45	1213.86	1387.27	1560.68	1907.50	2254.32	2601.13	3121.36
Hythe	1026.32	1197.37	1368.43	1539.48	1881.59	2223.70	2565.80	3078.96
Lydd	1021.66	1191.93	1362.21	1532.49	1873.05	2213.60	2554.15	3064.98
New Romney	1030.58	1202.34	1374.11	1545.87	1889.40	2232.93	2576.45	3091.74
Acrise	992.44	1157.85	1323.26	1488.67	1819.49	2150.31	2481.11	2977.34
Elham	1006.83	1174.64	1342.44	1510.25	1845.86	2181.48	2517.08	3020.50
Elmsted	998.08	1164.42	1330.77	1497.12	1829.82	2162.51	2495.20	2994.24
Hawkinge	1020.04	1190.04	1360.05	1530.06	1870.08	2210.09	2550.10	3060.12
Lyminge	1012.08	1180.77	1349.45	1518.13	1855.49	2192.86	2530.21	3036.26
Lympne	1005.08	1172.59	1340.11	1507.62	1842.65	2177.68	2512.70	3015.24
Monks Horton	998.66	1165.11	1331.55	1498.00	1830.89	2163.78	2496.66	2996.00
Newington	1008.92	1177.07	1345.23	1513.38	1849.69	2186.00	2522.30	3026.76
Paddlesworth	998.91	1165.40	1331.88	1498.37	1831.34	2164.32	2497.28	2996.74
Postling	1003.52	1170.78	1338.03	1505.29	1839.80	2174.31	2508.81	3010.58
Saltwood	1007.31	1175.20	1343.08	1510.97	1846.74	2182.52	2518.28	3021.94
Sellindge	1017.04	1186.54	1356.05	1525.56	1864.58	2203.59	2542.60	3051.12
Stanford	1009.21	1177.41	1345.62	1513.82	1850.23	2186.63	2523.03	3027.64
Stelling Minnis	1003.32	1170.55	1337.77	1504.99	1839.43	2173.88	2508.31	3009.98
Stowting	1001.22	1168.10	1334.97	1501.84	1835.58	2169.33	2503.06	3003.68
Swingfield	1016.32	1185.71	1355.10	1524.49	1863.27	2202.05	2540.81	3048.98
Brenzett	1014.03	1183.04	1352.04	1521.05	1859.06	2197.08	2535.08	3042.10
Brookland	1038.46	1211.53	1384.61	1557.69	1903.85	2250.00	2596.15	3115.38
Burmarsh	1014.55	1183.64	1352.74	1521.83	1860.02	2198.20	2536.38	3043.66
Dymchurch	1014.02	1183.03	1352.03	1521.04	1859.05	2197.06	2535.06	3042.08
Ivychurch	1024.50	1195.26	1366.01	1536.76	1878.26	2219.77	2561.26	3073.52
Newchurch	1008.75	1176.88	1345.00	1513.13	1849.38	2185.64	2521.88	3026.26
Old Romney	991.61	1156.88	1322.15	1487.42	1817.96	2148.50	2479.03	2974.84
St Mary in the Marsh	1006.84	1174.64	1342.45	1510.26	1845.88	2181.49	2517.10	3020.52
Snargate	991.61	1156.88	1322.15	1487.42	1817.96	2148.50	2479.03	2974.84

PLANNING

Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 13 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//13/00490/FUL: 4 St Augustine's Court, Herne Bay, CT6 5UE Conversion of attached garage into living accommodation with associated provision of a window to rear. **Applicant: Mr Richard Hills** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00662/FUL: Bay Tree House, The Street, Petham, CT4 5QU Convert the existing garage into a kitchen, utilising conservation rooflights and high level glazing. **Applicant: Mr P Young** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00666/FUL: The Old Cottage, Bekesbourne Lane, Canterbury, CT3 4AB Proposed conversion of subdivided units in The Old Cottage back into one dwelling. Erection of two-storey side extension, erection of rear extension, replacement single-storey rear extension, and erection of glass link between dwelling and outbuilding. Replacement barn to provide ancillary home office/garaging associated with The Old Cottage and change of use of land from agricultural into residential curtilage. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Oates** Reason: Affects the setting of a listed building.
CA//13/00673/FUL: Sturry Fire Station, High Street, Sturry, CT2 0AX Change of use from former fire station to a used car sales business. **Applicant: Belvedere Properties (Canterbury) Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00679/FUL: The Ivy House, 27 Hackington Road, Tyler Hill, Hackington, CT2 9NE Alterations and extensions to existing public house. **Applicant: Mr A Collins and Mr B Fitter** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00680/FUL: 71 Arkley Road, Herne Bay, CT6 5SL Conversion of garage to living accommodation to form ancillary accommodation. **Applicant: The Trustees of East Kent Mencap** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00683/FUL: 20 St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury, CT2 8BH Installation of four satellite dishes and TV aerial to flat roof at No 21 St Dunstan's Street connecting to ground floor unit at No 20 St Dunstan's Street and installation of two air conditioning units to rear elevation at ground floor level at No 21 St Dunstan's Street. **Applicant: Paddy Power** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//13/00684/FUL: 20 St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury, CT2 8BH Change of use from Sui Generis Use (amusement bingo centre) to A2 Use Class (financial and professional services). **Applicant: Paddy Power Plc** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00685/FUL: 20 St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury, CT2 8BH Installation of new shopfronts. **Applicant: Paddy Power Plc** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//13/00686/ADV: 20 St Dunstan's Street, Canterbury, CT2 8BH Installation of new shopfronts. **Applicant: Paddy Power Plc** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//13/00694/FUL: Barham Methodist Chapel, Derringstone Hill, Barham, CT4 6QD Change of use of former Methodist chapel, now redundant, to a single residential dwelling. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs M Cox** Reason: Contrary to development plan and conservation area.
CA//13/00695/LB: Barham Methodist Chapel, Derringstone Hill, Barham, CT4 6QD Internal and external alterations including demolition of part of rear 'lean to' element in connection with change of use of former Methodist chapel to a single residential dwelling. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs M Cox** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//13/00701/LB: Bishops Mill, 1 Westgate Grove, Canterbury, CT2 8AA Internal and external alterations. **Applicant: Mr M Still** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//13/00702/FUL: 6 St Dunstan's Terrace, Canterbury, CT2 8AX Proposed extension and renovation of existing dwelling and replacement garage. **Applicant: Mr M Glazer** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//13/00703/LB: 6 St Dunstan's Terrace, Canterbury, CT2 8AX Proposed extension and renovation of existing dwelling and replacement garage. **Applicant: Mr M Glazer** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//13/00704/FUL: 3 Becketts Wood, Upstreet, Chislet, CT3 4DQ Erection of front porch and enlargement of front first floor dormer. **Applicant: Mr G Gosbee** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00705/FUL: Court Lodge Farm, Frog Lane, Bishopsbourne, CT4 5HR Change of use from agricultural usage to farm shop (A1) including demolition and landscaping works. **Applicant: Hardres Court Farm** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00706/CAC: Court Lodge Farm, Frog Lane, Bishopsbourne, CT4 5HR Demolition of walls and roof forming covered yard. **Applicant: Hardres Court Farm** Reason: Demolition of unlisted building in conservation area.
CA//13/00707/FUL: Linda Vista, Manns Hill, Bossingham, Upper Hardres, CT4 6ED First-floor extension to provide additional living space and form two-storey dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Rosen** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00712/LB: 2 Sail Lofts, 15 Sea Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AN Retention of air bricks installed to Sea Street and courtyard garden elevations. **Applicant: Ms S Hill** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//13/00720/TPO: Land at Barham Court, Barham Felling and various other works to 18 number trees subject to TPO No 1 of 1951. **Applicant: Mrs Elizabeth Gordon's 1986 Discretionary Trust** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00723/FUL: Escombe House, The Street, Ickham, CT3 1QT Extension and alterations to listed dwelling, including demolitions. **Applicant: Mrs H Crowder** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//13/00724/LB: Escombe House, The Street, Ickham, CT3 1QT Extension and alterations to listed dwelling, including demolitions. **Applicant: Mrs H Crowder** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//13/00731/FUL: Otters Quest, Seaton Road, Wickhambreaux, CT3 1RW Proposed conservatory to rear of dwelling. **Applicant: Mrs C Stacey** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00732/LB: 52 King Street/8 St Alphege Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2AR Re-roofing of rear extension, alterations to windows and doors and minor internal alterations. **Applicant: Pavilion Property Group** Reason: Work to a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 20 May 2013.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 26 April 2013

PLANNING

Public Notice

28 April 2013

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Form of notice of confirmation by an acquiring authority of a Compulsory Purchase Order

The Canterbury City Council (3 Petchell Mews) Compulsory Purchase Order No 1 2012

The Housing Act 1985 (Part II) and The Acquisition of Land Act 1981

1. Notice is hereby given that Canterbury City Council, in exercise of the powers of the confirming authority under the above Acts, on 18 April 2013 confirmed The Canterbury City Council (3 Petchell Mews) Compulsory Purchase Order No 1 2012 made by it. No objections to the order were received within the permitted period and consequently notification was given by the Secretary of State for the Department for Communities and Local Government that the power to confirm the order may be exercised by the acquiring authority in accordance with section 14A of the Acquisition of Land Act 1981.
2. The order as confirmed provides for the purchase for the purposes of the provision of social housing of the land described in the Schedule.
3. A copy of the order as confirmed by Canterbury City Council and of the map referred to therein have been deposited at the offices of Canterbury City Council and may be seen at all reasonable hours.
4. The order as confirmed becomes operative on the date on which this notice is first published. A person aggrieved by the order may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks from that date, challenge its validity under section 23 of the Acquisition of Land Act 1981. The grounds for challenge can be that the authorisation granted by the order is not empowered to be granted or that there has been a failure to comply with any relevant statutory requirement relating to the order.

Schedule
Land comprised in the order as confirmed

3 Petchell Mews Canterbury Kent CT1 1LB registered at the Land Registry under Title Number K405925

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PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

13/00547/FUL Greenview The Street, Benenden
- Change of use of ground floor shop and storage space to residential (LB) (CA)

13/00889/LBC School Farm Cranbrook Road, Benenden
- Listed Building Consent: Renew low pitch roof to rear kitchen extension with slate. Insertion of solid board insulation in roof rafter void (LB)

13/00903/HOUSE Wealden Heights Cranbrook Road, Benenden
- Variation of Condition 2 of TW/12/01100 - Creation of hard tennis court with 9' high perimeter fencing - Revised location of tennis court (LB)

13/00724/FUL 5 Nevill Park Royal Tunbridge Wells, Broadwater
- Fitting of vented weather cowls to 5 chimney pots (CA)

13/00766/FUL Land Rear Of Bird In Hand, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst
- Two-bedroom dwelling (LB) (CA)

13/00887/FUL Spelmonden Farm Spelmonden Road, Horsmonden
- Extension of Time: Change of use of redundant barn to residential use including retention and conversion of storage building (TW/10/00546 (LB)

13/00883/HOUSE Murlingden Town Hill, Lamberhurst
- Two-storey extension, single-storey sun room and minor alterations to fenestration (LB) (CA)

13/00783/FUL 56 Frant Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks
- Extension of Time - Construction of 5 houses and 2 flats over garages associated parking and access improvements (Planning permission TW/10/01470/FUL refers) (CA)

13/00876/HOUSE Nightingale Cottage Half Moon Lane, Pembury
- Single storey rear extension and alteration to entrance (LB)

13/00879/LBC Nightingale Cottage Half Moon Lane, Pembury
- Listed Building Consent: Single storey rear extension and alteration to entrance (LB)

13/00840/HOUSE Sponden Old Hall Sponden Lane, Sandhurst
- Single storey rear extension as garden room to replace conservatory (Amended design to TW/12/00880) (LB)

13/00843/LBC Sponden Old Hall Sponden Lane, Sandhurst
- Listed Building Consent: Reduce chimney stack to existing extension; demolish conservatory; single storey rear extension as garden room (Amended design to TW/12/00881) (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Town Hall,
Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 27 April 2014

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING APPLICATIONS
LISTED BUILDING CONSENTS
CONSERVATION AREA CONSENTS

DOV/13/00062	Change of use of land for the siting of one caravan, the stationing of a tourer and the retention of a shed **The Paddock, Ferne Lane, Ewell Minnis, Dover, CT15 7FF**	**ARW**
DOV/13/00279	Part retrospective application for the change of use of first floor to 7no. holiday lets, erection of two storey rear extension incorporating balconies and dormer window extensions; change of use of existing workshop to children's play area, erection of extensions and associated alterations and construction of car parking **Sandwich Leisure Park, Woodnesbourough Road, Sandwich, CT13 0AA**	**ARW**
DOV/13/00251	Erection of yurt and associated landscaping **Pines Gardens, Beach Road, St Margarets Bay, Dover CT15 6DZ**	**ARW**
DOV/13/00240	Erection of an agricultural building **Land at Barfrestone Court Farm, Barfrestone, Eythorne, Dover, CT15 7JJ**	**CAF**
DOV/13/00241	Erection of a front porch extension **2 The Beagrams, The Butts, Sandwich, CT13 9HG**	**CON**
DOV/13/00246	Installation of a replacement door **26 Tannery Lane, Sandwich, CT13 9FX**	**CON**
DOV/13/00283	Installation of one transmission dish and associated ancillary works **Site at Arqiva Swingate Station, Swingate, St. Margarets, Dover, CT15 5DL**	**LBC**
DOV/13/00156	Erection of a rear dormer roof extension **Homeleigh, 3 Sondes Road, Deal, CT14 7BW**	**CON**
DOV/13/00282	Rendering of rear and side elevations and the installation of aluminium gutters and rainwater pipes **11 Oak Street, Deal, CT14 6JG**	**CON**
DOV/13/00292	Erection of a single storey rear extension and pitched roof to rear two storey extension **Barnwell, Front Street, Ringwould, Deal, CT14 8HP**	**CON**
DOV/13/00287	Erection of a two storey rear extension and pitched roof existing store room and installation of window **Preston Village Stores, The Street, Preston, Canterbury, CT3 1DY**	**LCN**
DOV/13/00288	Erection of a two storey rear extension and pitched roof existing store room, installation of window and associated alterations **Preston Village Stores, The Street, Preston, Canterbury, CT3 1DY**	**LCN**

Reason for Advert Codes:-
CAF - Affects a Conservation Area, **ARW** - Affect a Public Right of Way
CON - In a Conservation Area, **LCN** - Listed Building in a Conservation Area
LBC - The proposal affects a Listed Building

Some applications are not publicised in this list. All applications may be inspected at the Council Offices, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, to which address any representations (to include a postal address) should be sent within 21 days marked "for the attention of Planning". Applications may also be viewed, and comments on applications may be made on our website www.dover.gov.uk/planning or at Dover Gateway, 71 Castle Street, Dover, Deal Library or the Area Office, The Guildhall, Sandwich

Failure to meet the above deadline may jeopardise the chances of representations being considered. any representations received may be made available for inspection by the public, and may be copied to others, including the secretary of state and the applicant if there is an appeal against the council's decision. Representations will not be acknowledged until an application has been determined.

Please note that the Council does not accept any responsibility for any incomplete or inaccurate description of any application.

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/12/2245/S - HMP EAST SUTTON PARK, EAST SUTTON PARK, SUTTON VALENCE, KENT, ME17 3DF - An application for listed building consent for the installation of a satellite dish. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0017/N - LENWORTH HOUSE, ASHFORD ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Demolition of two storey extension and erection of three storey extension, alterations and earthworks to existing ground levels to provide 8No. flats and 4No. office/retail units, and erection of new building to provide 10No. flats. **Reason: 2 6**

MA/13/0316/S - INTERNATIONAL GRASSTRACK CIRCUIT, LONGEND LANE, MARDEN, KENT - Change of use of land for the keeping of horses for recreational use. **Reason: 6**

MA/13/0364/N - 17, ROSEACRE LANE, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4HZ - Erection of a single storey side extension incorporating existing outbuilding. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/0376/N - 18, WEEK STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1RW - Listed Building Consent for new signage comprising two internally-illuminated fascia signs of individual letters, two internally-illuminated hanging signs, and ten non-illuminated other signs (five nameplates, two vinyl signs and three car park signs). **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0414/S - CLOCK HOUSE, HEATH ROAD, COXHEATH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4PB - Conversion of existing outhouse to ancillary residential accommodation and erection of single storey link to house. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/0437/S - RAILWAY TAVERN, STATION ROAD, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0QH - Single storey rear extension and change of use of part of building from A4 use (public house) to create separate A5 use (hot food takeaway). **Reason: 1**

MA/13/0440/S - RAILWAY TAVERN, STATION ROAD, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0QH - Listed building consent for single storey rear extension and internal alterations to facilitate a change of use of part of building from A4 use (public house) to create separate A5 use (hot food takeaway). **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0471/S - STAR HOUSE, PUDDING LANE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1LT - Installation of 9 new antennas reaching an overall height of 22 metres; 4 new satellite dishes at a height of 19.5 metres; adoption of 3 existing support structures; installation of 3 new support structures; and additional cabinets and ancillary development to replace existing TEF flagpoles. **Reason: 2**

MA/13/0473/N - 69 - 77, WEEK STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1QU - Installation of rooftop plant equipment including air conditioning condensers and refrigeration pack. **Reason: 1 2**

MA/13/0474/N - 69 - 77, WEEK STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1QU - Alterations to existing shop front to facilitate subdivision of retail unit. **Reason: 1 2**

MA/13/0494/N - BEARSTED AND THURNHAM STATION, WARE STREET, BEARSTED, KENT, ME14 4PH - An application for listed building consent for the installation and attachment of two new lift shafts to the DDA compliant footbridge within the curtilage of the Grade II listed station building. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0503/S - 38, UNION STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1ED - Application for listed building consent to clad side glazing of shop front to create blank wall. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0510/N - GREENWAY COURT BARN, GREENWAY COURT ROAD, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1QE - Erection of a detached garage. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/0518/S - 17, THE PARADE, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0LA - Installation of new shopfront and entrance door. **Reason: 1 2**

MA/13/0539/S - LITTLE DEAN, WALNUT TREE LANE, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 9RQ - Erection of rear, side and front extensions, including front porch, loft conversion with rear dormers and side-facing roof lights, erection of new roof to existing conservatory and general alterations. **Reason: 2**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm, and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **12th May 2013**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 28th April 2013.

Town and Country Planning Acts
Notice Of Public Inquiry

Applications 10/01219/LBCDEM/AT2 Burgess Hill Farm Pembury Road Capel Tonbridge Kent
Listed Building Consent: Demolition of oast house, garages and stables within farm complex

And 09/03911/LBC/EM/AT2 Burgess Hill Farm And Barn, Pembury Road, Capel, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 0QG
Listed Building Consent: Demolition of farmhouse and barn

A Public Inquiry is being held to consider applications for listed building consent made to Tunbridge Wells Borough Council by the Secretary of State for Transport c/o Highways Agency and referred to the Secretary of State under Section 12 of the Planning (Listed Buildings And Conservation Areas) Act 1990 to demolish Burgess Hill Farmhouse, Barn and Stables (also known as Byre) and two curtilage listed structures: Oast House and Garages (also known as a storage building) on this site, namely: Burgess Hill Farm, Pembury Road, Tonbridge and Burgess Hill Farm And Barn, Pembury Road, Tonbridge.

The Public Inquiry will start on 14 May 2013 at 10.00am at the Mercure Tunbridge Wells Hotel, 8 Tonbridge Road, Pembury, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 4QL and is expected to last for at least two weeks.

Documents relating to the applications can be viewed at the Planning Department, Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 1RS by prior arrangement. The Planning inspectorate will publish the decision on the Planning Portal.

Members of the public may attend the Inquiry and, at the discretion of the Inspector, express their views. Suitable facilities will be in place for any disabled attendees.

Swale BOROUGH COUNCIL

"TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
6. This application may be of wider public interest.
7. This application affects trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 13 MAY 2013

SW/13/0069:
Change of use of land to keeping of horses with the provision of 4 new stables, tack room, hay store, two horse trailers - Land at Warren Lane, HARTLIP; **REASON 3**

SW/13/0288 & SW/13/0289:
Outbuilding/studio - Blyths,The Street,SELLING; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/0357:
Proposed new two storey side extension and rear conservatory together with new dormer within the existing roof - Graveney Court Cottage, Seasalter Road, GRAVENEY; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0388:
Advertisement consent for three signs - Newton Place Surgery, Newton Road, FAVERSHAM; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0390:
Listed Building Consent for window to rear elevation and light well formed below ground level - 5 The Square, Hogbens Hill, SELLING; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/0393:
Demolition of existing rear conservatory, construction of a rear single storey extension, with associated replacement roof over a previous flat roofed infill structure, construction of a first floor extension above part of the original dwelling, construction of a replacement entrance hall extension with open porch and all associated and other alterations works to suit - Stone Hall Orchard, Place Lane, HARTLIP; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0395:
Construction of new MUGA "Multi use Games Area" with associated 3m high fencing enclosure - Queen Elizabeth School, Abbey Place, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/0402:
Erection of a single storey rear extension - 7 The Mews, Bell Road, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASONS 2 & 7**

SW/13/0409:
Variation to condition 5 of approved SW/11/1560 to the following: "The use hereby permitted shall be restricted to the hours of 5 am to 6 pm Mondays to Fridays including deliveries and dispatches and 7 am to 2 pm on any other day" - Brogdale Farm, Brogdale Road, OSPRINGE; **REASONS 2 & 6**

SW/13/0410:
Two replacement windows to front elevation - 36 High Street, Milton Regis, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0412 & SW/13/0413:
Construction of two storey side extension and internal alterations to house, conversion of adjacent store barn to residential use and link to house, demolition of outbuildings - Bessborough Cottage, Fostall, HERNHILL; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/0433:
Replacement of existing shop front at 2-4 Rose Street, Sheerness, Kent - Sheppey Aquatics, 2-4 Rose Street, SHEERNESS; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0446:
Proposed detached 4 bedroom house with attached double garage and associated car parking and garages apron - The Old Vicarage, The Street, LYNSTED; **REASON 2**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

To place you notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on 01303 817056

PLANNING

To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on

01303 817056

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y13/0345/SH - The Triangle Street Record New Road Elham Kent - Works to 26 trees the subject of Tree Preservation Order No.1 of 1955.

Y12/1149/SH - Paddlesworth Court Farm Paddlesworth Court Paddlesworth Folkestone Kent - Listed building consent for the erection of a two storey side extension.

Y13/0329/SH - 70 - 72 Sandgate Road Folkestone Kent CT20 2AA - Listed building consent for the display of a replacement internally illuminated fascia sign, removal of 2 window marketing units and replacement with 1 new window marketing unit, display of internally illuminated hanging sign and installation of 2 internally illuminated ATM collar surrounds.

Y12/1131/SH - Paddlesworth Court Farm Paddlesworth Court Paddlesworth Folkestone Kent - Erection of a two storey side extension.

Y13/0298/SH - 82 The Bayle Folkestone Kent CT20 1SJ - Listed Building Consent - for replacement of existing staircase to basement, ensuite bathroom to 2nd floor: replacement window to north elevation and alteration to shop front.

Y13/0306/SH - 4 Marine Walk Street Hythe Kent CT21 5NW - Variation of conditions - 2 and 10 of planning permission Y13/0038/SH to allow use of cedral weatherboarding in place of the approved timber and weatherboarding.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY, VARIOUS ROADS) (PROVISION OF ON-STREET DISABLED PERSON'S PARKING PLACES) CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012 (AMENDMENT NO. 2)

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes the above Order under Sections 1, 2, 32 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order provides the following and shall come into effect on the 1st May 2013: -

To install disabled persons' parking places in the vicinity of the following locations: - 67 Burrow Road, Folkestone; 23 Calgary Crescent, Folkestone; 159 Cheriton High Street, Folkestone; 11 Grimston Gardens, Folkestone; 149 Shaftesbury Avenue, Folkestone; 16 Tudor Road, Folkestone; 5 Martins Way, Hythe; 1 Densole Lane, Densole; 8 Palm Tree Way, Lyminge

To revoke the following disable persons' parking places: - 10 Brockman Road, Folkestone; 71 Charles Crescent, Folkestone; 10 Ernwell Road, Folkestone; 14 Ernwell Road, Folkestone; 22 St Martins Road, Folkestone; 15 Trimworth Road, Folkestone; 2 Oaks Road, Hythe

A copy of the Order, a copy of any Orders which may be amended by it, and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing it can be inspected during normal office hours at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, during normal office hours.

If you have any questions concerning the above Order or require further information please contact Shepway District Council (Parking Services), Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY (01303 853240) during normal office hours.

This notice is published by Shepway District Council on behalf of Kent Highway Services, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX. Kent Highway Services is part of Kent County Council.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010 AND UNDER THE PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/CA/0107/2013 - Proposed development at St John's Primary School, St John's Place, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1BD.

Kent County Council is applying to Kent County Council Planning Applications Group for planning permission for the erection of two temporary single storey prefabricated classroom units within the existing grounds of the St John's C of E Primary School (formerly the Kingsmead Primary School). Each unit consists of 2no. 30 pupil capacity classrooms with washroom and storage facilities. Maximum period of use 24 months. The proposed development is within the Canterbury City Conservation Area and could affect its character and/or appearance, and could also affect the setting of nearby listed buildings. The development site is in close proximity to, and may affect, a public right of way.

You may view this application at Canterbury City Council, Canterbury Main Office, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1YW.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the City Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 28th April 2013

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY, VARIOUS ROADS) (PROVISION OF ON-STREET DISABLED PERSON'S PARKING PLACES) CONSOLIDATION ORDER 2012 (14 STATION ROAD, LYMINGE) AMENDMENT 2013

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above Order under Sections 1, 2, 32 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order shall provide the following and shall come into effect on the 1st May 2013.

To relocate the disabled persons' parking place outside number 14 Station Road, Lyminge to partially in front of the neighbouring property number 10-12 Station Road, Lyminge.

A copy of the Order, a copy of any Orders which may be amended by it, and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing it can be inspected during normal office hours at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, during normal office hours.

If you have any questions concerning the above Order or require further information please contact Shepway District Council (Parking Services), Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY (01303 853240) during normal office hours.

This notice is published by Shepway District Council on behalf of Kent Highway Services, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX. Kent Highway Services is part of Kent County Council.

MARRIAGE LICENCES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC NOTICE

A building certified for worship named The Meeting Hall, Whetsted Road, Five Oak Green, Tonbridge in the registration district of Kent, in the Non-Metropolitan County of Kent, was on 11th April 2013 registered for solemnising marriages therein pursuant to section 41 of the Marriage Act 1949 as amended by Section 1 (1) of the Marriage Acts Amendment Act, 1958. In lieu of The Meeting Hall (Portacabin), Whetsted Road, Five Oak Green, Tonbridge, Kent now disused and the registration cancelled thereof.

Superintendent Registrar
23 April 2013

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH AU79, CHURCH YARD PASSAGE) (GATING) ORDER 2013

CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS & ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005 HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 (GATING ORDERS) (ENGLAND) REGULATIONS 2006

NOTICE is hereby given that The Kent County Council in exercise of all its powers under Part 1, Section 2 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 and Sections 129 A to 129 G of the Highways Act 1980 (Gating Orders) (England) Regulations 2006, has made a Gating Order, the effect of which will prohibit public pedestrian access to Public Footpath AU79, Ashford, by means of installing a lockable gate.

The alternative route for pedestrians will be via Tufton Street, Bank Street and the High Street.

A copy of the Order and map showing the extent of the restriction and an explanatory statement may be inspected during normal office hours at the Kent County Council Offices, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX or at the Ashford Gateway Plus, Church Road, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1AS. Copies of the Order and Map may also be purchased there at the price of £5.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of the publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Order or of any provision contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Highways Act 1980, or of any instrument made there under, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Order.

Des Crilley
Director of Customer and Communities
Invicta House
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Date: 28th April 2013**

VILLAGE GREENS - IN THE DISTRICT OF DOVER

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 15(1)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF LAND AS A VILLAGE GREEN

Application has been made to the Registration Authority, Kent County Council, by Mr. R. Chatfield under section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006 and in accordance with the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008. The application seeks the inclusion in the Register of Town and Village Greens of the land described in the Schedule below which is claimed to have qualified for registration as a Town or Village Green by virtue of the use of the land for the purposes of lawful sports and pastimes 'as of right' and without challenge by the landowner for a period of over 20 years.

If the Registration Authority is satisfied that the land described below qualifies for registration as a Town or Village Green, it will so register the land.

The application, which includes a plan of the land proposed for registration, may be inspected at the offices of Kent County Council at the address below. Please contact the Commons Registration Team on 01622 221628 to make an appointment prior to visiting to ensure that a member of the team is available to assist you.

Any person wishing to make representations regarding the application should send a written statement of the facts upon which the representation is based to Miss. Melanie McNeir at Kent County Council, either by post at the address below or by email to commons.villagegreens@kent.gov.uk, so as to arrive no later than Monday 10th June 2013. Please quote reference VGA652. Representations must include the name and postal address of the person making them and the nature of their interest (if any) in the land affected by the application. They must also be signed by the person making them and state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that any representations that are to be taken into account by the Registration Authority in reaching a decision on the application cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain during the processing of the application. Copies of any objections or representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment and may be disclosed to other interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

Description of the land claimed to have qualified for registration as a Village Green

An area of land of approximately 23 acres (9.3 hectares) in size, consisting of woodland and a meadow, situated to the east of Coldblow Road (between its junction with Ripple Road and Cold Blow Crossing) in the parish of Ripple, near Deal.

VILLAGE GREENS - IN THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMONS ACT 2006 - SECTION 15(1)

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF LAND AS A VILLAGE GREEN

Application has been made to the Registration Authority, Kent County Council, by Mrs. M. Heasman under section 15(1) of the Commons Act 2006 and in accordance with the Commons Registration (England) Regulations 2008. The application seeks the inclusion in the Register of Town and Village Greens of the land described in the Schedule below which is claimed to have qualified for registration as a Town or Village Green by virtue of the use of the land for the purposes of lawful sports and pastimes 'as of right' and without challenge by the landowner for a period of over 20 years.

If the Registration Authority is satisfied that the land described below qualifies for registration as a Town or Village Green, it will so register the land.

The application, which includes a plan of the land proposed for registration, may be inspected at the offices of Kent County Council at the address below. Please contact the Commons Registration Team on 01622 221628 to make an appointment prior to visiting to ensure that a member of the team is available to assist you.

Any person wishing to make representations regarding the application should send a written statement of the facts upon which the representation is based to Miss. Melanie McNeir at Kent County Council, either by post at the address below or by email to commons.villagegreens@kent.gov.uk, **so as to arrive no later than Monday 10th June 2013. Please quote reference VGA651.** Representations must include the name and postal address of the person making them and the nature of their interest (if any) in the land affected by the application. They must also be signed by the person making them and state the grounds on which they are made.

Please note that any representations that are to be taken into account by the Registration Authority in reaching a decision on the application cannot be treated as confidential and may come into the public domain during the processing of the application. Copies of any objections or representations received will be forwarded to the applicant for comment and may be disclosed to other interested parties, including the Planning Inspectorate where the case is referred to it for determination.

Description of the land claimed to have qualified for registration as a Village Green

An area of land of approximately 1.67 acres (0.67 hectares) in size situated at the junction of Colebrook Road and South View Road in the High Brooms area of Tunbridge Wells.

Public Rights of Way and Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 28th April 2013**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Public Rights of Way and Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

To advertise in this section 01303 817056

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

GREENSIDE, HIGH HALDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Greenside, High Halden, between 1 and 7 May 2013, excluding the weekend and Bank Holiday.

The road will be closed between 07:00 and 17:00 hours each day, and otherwise re-opened.

There is no alternative route as the road is a *cul-de-sac*.

Access will be maintained whenever it is safe to do so, but there are likely to be some delays and certain times when this is not possible, due to the nature of the works.

SOUTHENAY LANE, BRABOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER MAY 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works prior to carriageway surface treatment, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Southenay Lane, Brabourne, on or after 14 May 2013 as shown below.

It is planned the road will be closed between 14 May to 17 May inclusive, between 08:00 hours and 17:00 hours each day.

It may also be necessary to close the road on Monday 20 May for the same times, if there are any outstanding works to be completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Stone Hill and Fiddling Lane.

The alternative route is via Stone Hill, A20 Main Road, Moorstock Lane, Cock Ash Lane and Broad Street.

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

BRIDGE ROAD, BRIDGE, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to refurbish the overhead electricity pylon network, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bridge Road, Bridge, Canterbury, on or after 13 May 2013 as shown below.

Closures are planned as follows

- 13 May 2013 for up to 2 weeks
- 4 July 2013 for up to 4 weeks

The closure is in the vicinity of where the electricity pylons cross the road, with access from either direction up to where the road is closed, but no through access between the B2068 and Bridge.

The alternative routes are

Westbound via Station Road, Dover Road, A2050 New Dover Road, Old Dover Road and B2068 Nackington Road

Eastbound via B2068 Nackington Road, Old Dover Road, A2050 New Dover Road, A2 Dover Road and exit slip to Biffrons Hill, Bekesbourne Road, Town Hill and Station Road

CHARTHAM HATCH LEVEL CROSSING, CHARTHAM, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of level crossing maintenance, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chartham Hatch Level Crossing, Chartham, Canterbury, on or after 19 May 2013, as shown below.

Hatch Road, Chartham will be closed in the vicinity of the level crossing.

The planned closure times are from Sunday 19 May at 00:20 hours through until Monday 20 May 2013 at 04:00 hours.

The alternative route is via A28 Ashford Road, Howfield Lane, Town Lane and Hatch Lane.

WOODGATE, BISHOPSBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to refurbish the overhead electricity pylon network, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Woodgate, Bishopsbourne, on or after 29 April 2013, as shown below.

The actual closures are in the vicinity of where the electricity pylons cross the road, with access from either direction up to the point of closure.

Closures are planned as follows

29 April 2013 for up to 4 weeks
17 June 2013 for up to 4 weeks

The alternative route is via Pett Bottom Road, Westwood Road and Pheasant's Hall Road.

HIGHWAYS - DARTFORD AREA

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD) (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) CONSOLIDATION (AMENDMENT NO. 14) ORDER 2013

NOTICE is hereby given that THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under Sections 1, 2, 4, and 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act of 1984:

The effect of the Order is to introduce, amend and revoke regulations following ad hoc requests from residents and agencies. These apply as follows:-

In the borough of Dartford

Install or amend: 'No waiting at any time' regulations	Anne Of Cleves Road, Dartford; Bean Road, Greenhithe; Broomfield Road, Swanscombe; Cedar Drive, Sutton At Hone; Roseberry Gardens, Dartford; Shepherds Lane, Dartford.
Revoke: 'No waiting at any time' regulations	Bean Road, Greenhithe; Church Road, Swanscombe (opposite Harmer Road); Roseberry Gardens, Dartford; Shepherds Lane, Dartford.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined between 8.30am and 5pm on Mondays to Fridays at Sessions House, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ or Ashford Highway Depot, 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD.

Any person wishing to support or object to the making of the Order should do so in writing by 20th May 2013 to Miss Kerry Prescott, KCC Highways and Transportation, Ashford Highway Depot, 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, Kent TN24 8AD, or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

CHURCH PATH, DEAL (RESTRICTIONS ON DRIVING & PEDESTRIANS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic and pedestrians on sections of Church Path, Deal, on or after 13 May 2013 for up to 7 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Church Path will be closed in 2 phases, between the junctions with Grange Road and Bowling Green Lane.

The dates of the phases are subject to weather and ground conditions. The exact dates will be notified to local residents and signposted on site.

The initial phase is the closure of the road between the junctions with Grange Road and Claremont Road.

The alternative route is via Claremont Road, A258 London Road and Grange Road

The second phase is the footpath between the junctions with Claremont Road and Bowling Green Lane.

The alternative route for pedestrians is via Claremont Road, A258 London Road and Bowling Green Lane.

SHEERWATER ROAD, ASH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to replace telegraph poles, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Sheerwater Road, Ash, on or after 29 April 2013 for up to 2 days, between 09:30 and 15:30 hours each day.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Hoaden Lane and Wass Drove.

The alternative route is via Ware Road, Knell Lane, A257 Ash Bypass, Nash Road, Hoaden Lane and Sheerwater Road.

WHITE HILL, LANGDON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of bridge maintenance works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on White Hill, Langdon, on or after Sunday 12 May 2013, between 08:00 hours and 20:00 hours.

The alternative route is via Solton Lane, A258 Deal Road, Hangman's Lane, The Street, East Langdon Road and White Hill.

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

FAIRBOURNE LANE, HARRIETSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to connect a water supply to the main, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Fairbourne Lane, Harrietsham, on or after 29 April 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside "The Oast".

The alternative route is via A20 Ashford Road, East Street, Sandway Road, Headcorn Road, Lenham Road.

PILGRIMS WAY, DETLING/THURNHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install a new electric supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pilgrims Way, Detling/Thurnham on or after 29 April 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Queens Way to Thurnham Lane.

The alternative route is via Thurnham Lane, Ware Street, Hockers Lane, The Street.

WATER LANE, DETLING/THURNHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to the railway bridge, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Water Lane, Detling/Thurnham on or after 13 May 2013 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via The Street, Thurnham Lane, Pilgrims Way.

HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS

FORGE LANE, WEST KINGSDOWN, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of new water connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Forge Lane, West Kingsdown, Sevenoaks, on or after 29th April 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside no 28 Forge Lane up to High Leighs. There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via A20 London Road, Fawkham Road, Brandshatch Road, Rogers Wood Lane, Crowhurst Lane.

MAPLESCOMBE LANE, FARNINGHAM, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT works accessing overhead network cabling for new customer connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Maplescombe Lane, Farningham, Sevenoaks, on or after 1st May 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed opposite Maple Cottage for 200 metres and there will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via Donkey Lane, A20 London Road, Botsom Lane.

STATION APPROACH, SWANLEY, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a standing mobile crane on the highway to lift substation equipment onto the railway, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Station Approach, Swanley, Sevenoaks, on or after 29th April 2013 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for 60metres of Station Approach from the junction with Goldsel Road. There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via Goldsel Road, Azalea Drive, Station Approach.

HIGHWAYS - SHEPWAY AREA

COOPER'S LANE, SELLINDGE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of electricity cable repair works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cooper's Lane, Sellindge, on or after 13 May 2013 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with A20 Hythe Road and Stone Hill .

The alternative route is via A20 Hythe Road and Stone Hill.

THE OLD HIGH STREET, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER MAY 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new water supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Old High Street, Folkestone, on or after 13 May 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of number 12.

There is no alternative route. Every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so.

HIGHWAYS - SWALE

VARIOUS ROADS, SWALE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER MAY 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works prior to surface treatments, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in the Swale area, on or after 13 May 2013 as shown below.

Roads will be closed between 08:30 hours and 17:30 hours each day, and re-opened outside these times.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

BLIND MARY'S LANE, BREDGAR - closed between Silver Street & Swanton Street, 13 to 17 May 2013

Alternative route via Silver Street, Gore Road & Swanton Street

WISES LANE, BORDEN - closed between Cryalls Lane and The Street, 17 and 20 May 2013

Alternative route via London Road, Borden Lane and The Street

HIGH OAK HILL, NEWINGTON - closed between Church Lane and Belnor Avenue, 17 May to 24 May 2013

Alternative route via Stickfast Lane, Parsonage Lane, Cold Harbour Lane, Rook Lane and Boyces Hill

OWENS COURT ROAD, SELLING - closed between Selling Road and New House Lane, 24 & 28 to 29 May 2013

Alternative route via Selling Road, Featherbed Lane and Winding Hill

PRESTON LANE & THE CLOSE, FAVERSHAM - closed between The Mall and St Catherine's Drive, 29 to 31 May 2013

Alternative route via Preston Grove, London Road and The Mall

FAVERSHAM ROAD, OSPRINGE - closed between London Road and the M2 Overbridge, 31 May 2013 to 4 June 2013

Alternative route via Rushett Lane, Provender Lane and London Road

FROGNAL LANE, TEYNHAM - closed between Lower Road and London Road, 4 to 5 June 2013

Alternative route via Lower Road, Station Road and London Road

SUTTON BARRON ROAD, BORDEN - closed between Pond Farm Road and Wrens Road, 5 to 7 June 2013

Alternative route via Pond Farm Road, The Street and Hearts Delight

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways & Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - THANET

ALEXANDRA ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new gas supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Alexandra Road, Ramsgate, on or after 13 May 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Margate Road and St Luke's Avenue.

The alternative route is via Margate Road, Percy Road and St Luke's Avenue.

COTTAGE ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide a new gas supply, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cottage Road, Ramsgate, on or after 29 April 2013 for up to 3 days, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Wellington Crescent and Albion Mews.

The alternative route is via Abbot's Hill, Albion Place, B2054 Madeira Walk and Cottage Road.

PARK PLACE, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to provide water connections to 7 new houses, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Park Place, Margate, on or after 29 April 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of properties 24-25.

The alternative route is via Grosvenor Gardens, Churchfields, High Street and Grosvenor Hill.

The Prohibition of Driving and One-way Traffic Orders in respect of High Street, Margate will be suspended, between the junctions with Mill Lane and Grosvenor Hill.

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE & MALLING

KING STREET, WEST MALLING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of alteration to an existing service, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on King Street, West Malling, Tonbridge & Malling, on or after 13 May 2013 for up to 8 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside number 18.

The alternative route is via High Street, King Street.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL TO MAKE A STATUTORY QUALITY PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

NOTICE is hereby given by Kent County Council to formally consult on their proposal to make a Statutory Quality Partnership Scheme for part of the A20 London Road in accordance with Section 115 of the Transport Act 2000. The Scheme area proposed is from the junction with Coldharbour Lane (Coldharbour Roundabout) in a Westerly direction, to the junction with Ashton Way (A228) and Castle Way.

In accordance with the Quality Partnership Schemes (Existing Facilities) Regulations 2001, Kent County Council has provided existing facilities which Kent County Council believes are all less than 10 years old, as at 22nd April 2013. It is proposed that these facilities are included within the Scheme, on the terms specified within the Scheme. Details of the dates of first provision of each facility are available within the Scheme documents as specified below.

Full details of the Scheme including the facilities and standards of service are available on the internet at www.kent.gov.uk/A20. Such details may also be inspected at the address below, by agreement with Charlotte Owen. Tel: 01622 221022

Email: charlotte.owen@kent.gov.uk.

Any comments or objections to the Scheme or to the inclusion of the existing facilities within the Scheme should be made in writing to Charlotte Owen at the address below or emailed to charlotte.owen@kent.gov.uk, by 5pm on 15th July 2013.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS

GROOMBRIDGE ROAD, SPELDHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to a culvert, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Groombridge Road, Speldhurst, Tunbridge Wells, on or after 13 May 2013 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside "Cockshots".

The alternative route is via Groombridge Road, Bird In the Hand Street, The Green, B2110 Groombridge Hill, A264 Ashurst Road.

HIGHWAYS - WEST KENT AREA

VARIOUS ROADS, KENT (RESURFACING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow a programme of carriageway Surface Dressing works to be carried out, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to restrict traffic on various roads in Kent, as shown below.

The Order will become effective on or after **13th May 2013** for up to 18 months, or until the works have been completed.

The planned dates and times for each road closure or restriction are shown below, in a Schedule listed in alphabetical order of District.

Planned dates will be indicated by signage displayed on site 7 days in advance. Road closures and other restrictions will be in effect when the appropriate signage and barriers are in place.

The roads in the schedule will need to be re-closed approximately 7 days after the original closure to carry out road sweeping, replacement of lines and to adjust manholes as required.

Every effort will be made to keep to the schedule shown below. Some minor modifications may be made to dates and duration of works, to be advised once known.

Adverse weather conditions may prevent some works being carried out on the planned dates.

Roads that are missed will be re-scheduled, as advised locally and signposted on site.

SCHEDULE

DARTFORD

A226 DARTFORD ROAD, DARTFORD - closed between West Hill mini roundabout and Stanham Road.
17th to 25th June 2013 1900hrs - 0200hrs week evenings only
Diversion will be Dartford Road, Princes Road and Shepherds Lane.

GRAVESHAM SURFACE DRESSING

DOWNS ROAD, NORTHFLEET - Fairview Road to Northfleet Green Road
13th May 2013 0800hrs - 1900hrs
Alternative route via Downs Road, Broad Ditch Road, New Barn Road and Northfleet Green Road.

MAIDSTONE SURFACE DRESSING

TESTON LANE, WEST FARLEIGH - Closed between A26 Tonbridge Road and B2010 Lower Road.
16th May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
Alternative route via A26 Tonbridge Road, B2015 Bow Road, Maidstone Road, B2162 Hampstead Lane, Lees Road, B2010 High Street, Yalding Hill, Smiths Hill, Lower Road (And vice versa)

GREENWAY COURT ROAD, HOLLINGBORNE - Closed between A20 Ashford Road and Eyehorne Street.
24th May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
Alternative route via A20 Ashford Road and Eyehorne Street. (And vice versa).

BOUGHTON ROAD, LENHAM - Closed between Headcorn Road and a point 50m south of Lenham Heath Road crossroads
24th May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
Alternative route via Headcorn Road and Chain Gate Road (And vice versa).

LODDINGTON LANE, BOUGHTON MONCHELSEA - closed between B2163 Heath Road and Butt Green Lane.
24th May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
Alternative route via Butt Green Lane, A229 Linton Hill and B2163 Heath Road. (And vice versa).

BENOVER ROAD, COLLIER STREET - Closed between Haviker Street and Forge Lane
28th May 2013 0900hrs - 1500hrs
Alternative route via B2162 Collier Street, Benover Road, High Street Yalding, Yalding Hill, Smiths Hill, Ewell Lane, Heath Road, A229 Linton Hill, Staplehurst Road, B2079 Maidstone Road, High Street Marden, Church Green, West End, Goudhurst Road, Winchet Hill, Summerhill, C50 Ballards Hill, Goudhurst Road, B2162 Maidstone Road, Claygate and Collier Street (And vice versa).

WILDEN PARK ROAD/MARDEN THORNE, STAPLEHURST - Closed between Park Road and Five Oak Lane.
29th May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
Alternative route via Pagehurst Road, Five Ash Lane and Five Oak Lane (And vice versa).

SNOAD LANE, STAPLEHURST - Closed between Five Oak Lane and Pristling Lane.
29th May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
Alternative Route via Five Oak Lane, Goudhurst Road and Pristling Lane. (And vice versa)

PRISTLING LANE, STAPLEHURST - Closed between Goudhurst Road, Staplehurst and Snoad Lane
29th May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
Alternative Route via Goudhurst Road Five Oak Lane and Snoad Lane. (And vice versa)

BOY COURT LANE, HEADCORN - Tilden (Upper Little Boy Court Farm)
30th May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
No alternative route as no through road.

FRINSTEAD LANE, WORMSHILL - closed up to Bedmonton House entrance.
30th May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
(No alternative route as this is a no through road)

SEVENOAKS SURFACE DRESSING

WILSON LANE, HORTON KIRBY - Rabbits Road to Gill's Road
13th May 2013 0800 - 1900hrs
Alternative route via Rabbits Road, Canada Farm Road, Green Street Green Road and Gill's Road.

COTMANS ASH LANE, KEMSING - Clarkes Green Road to Pilgrims Way
13th May 2013 0800hrs - 1900hrs
Alternative route via Tinkerpot Lane, St Clere Hill Road, Knockmill Lane, Old Terry's Lodge Road and Pilgrims Way.

SCALLOPS, SUNDRIDGE - B2042 Ide Hill Road to Winkhurst Green Road
13th May 2013 08:00hrs - 19:00hrs
Alternative route via Ide Hill Road, Chequers Hill, Tonbridge Road, Bore Place Road and Winkhurst Green Road

BLUEBERRY LANE, KNOCKHOLT - Main Road and Pound Lane
13th May 2013 0800hrs - 1900hrs
Alternative route via Main Road and Pound Lane

SOUTH BROOK LANE, BRASTED - Green Lane to Toy's Hill
13th - 14th May 2013 0800hrs - 1900hrs
Alternative route via Green Lane and Toy's Hill

ST JULIANS ROAD, SEVENOAKS WEALD - A225 London Road to
Fawke Wood Road
14th May 2013 0915hrs - 1900hrs
Alternative Route via River Hill, B245 London Road (via Morley's Roundabout), Bank Lane, Carter's Hill and Fawke Wood Road

HALE OAK ROAD, SEVENOAKS WEALD - B2027 Tonbridge Road to Bowzell Road
14th May 2013 0800hrs - 1900hrs
Alternative route via B2027 Tonbridge Road, Camp Hill, Coppings Road, Scabharbour Road, Long Barn Road and Windmill Road

FIVE FIELDS LANE, BRASTED - Four Elms Road to Clinton Lane
14th May 2013 0800 - 1900hrs
Alternative route via Four Elms Road and Clinton Lane

B2026 HARTFIELD ROAD, EDENBRIDGE - closed between B2026 Mill Hill and Lydens Lane
16th May 2013 0900hrs - 0500hrs
Alternative route via B2026 Mill Hill, B2207 Four Elms Road, B2027 Clinton Lane, B2027 Tonbridge Road, Penshurst Road, B2088 Spring Hill, A264 Ashurst Road, A264 Holtye Road and B2026 Hartfield Road

TONBRIDGE AND MALLING SURFACE DRESSING

LEIGH ROAD, HILDENBOROUGH - closed between Brookmead and Meopham Bank Farm
16th May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
Alternative route via Stocks Green Lane, Rings Hill, Hildenborough Road and Powder Mill Lane. (And vice versa)

THONG LANE, BOROUGH GREEN - closed between Quarry Hill Road and Basted Mill
18th May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
Alternative route via A25 Sevenoaks Road, A227 Borough Green Road, Fen Pond Road, The Street, Bates Hill, Mill Lane & Thong Lane. (And vice versa)

COMMON ROAD, HADLOW - closed between A26 Maidstone Road and Carpenters Lane.
18th May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
Alternative route via A26 Maidstone Road and Carpenters Lane. (And vice versa)

CARPENTERS LANE, HADLOW - closed between The A26 Maidstone Road and Common Road.
18th May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
Alternative route via A26 Maidstone Road and Common Road. (And vice versa)

KEMSING ROAD, WROTHAM - closed between - Fen Pond Road and Borough Green Road.
18th to 19th May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
Alternative route via Fen Pond Road, A227 Borough Green Road, A25 Sevenoaks Road, Western Road,A227 Wrotham Road, A227 Borough Green Road, Borough Green Road. (And vice versa)

COURT ROAD WATER WORKS [Access Road], BURHAM - Closed between Court Road and Works.
19th May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
No Alternative route.

HATHAM GREEN LANE, STANSTED - closed between Ash Road and Plaxdale Green Road.
19th May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
Alternative route via Ash Road, A20 London Road and Plaxdale Green Road. (And vice versa).

TUMBLEFIELD ROAD, STANSTED - closed between Plaxdale Green Road and Wrotham Hill Road.
19th May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
Alternative route via Plaxdale Green Road, Labour in Vain Road. (And vice versa).

SANDY LANE, RYARSH - closed between The A20 London Road and Fartherwell Road.
19th May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
Alternative route via A20 London Road, Ashton Way, A228, King Hill, Teston Road, Offham Rd and Norman Road. (And vice versa)

FARTHERWELL ROAD, WEST MALLING - Closed between Ford lane and St Vincent's Lane
21st May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
Alternative route via Sandy Lane, A20 London Road, Ashton Way, A228, King Hill, Teston Road. (And vice versa)

CASTLE WAY, LEYBOURNE - closed between The A20 London Road and The M20 intersection.
21st - 22nd May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
Alternative route via A228 Leybourne by pass and Ashton Way. (And vice versa). CAN THIS BE DONE UNDER S&G?

LADDS LANE, SNODLAND - closed between Manley Boulevard and the Quarry
22nd May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
Alternative route via A228 Malling Road, Kent Road, Vicarage Road,
The Street, Upper Halling Pilgrims Way and Ladds Lane. (And vice versa).

PRATLING STREET, AYLESFORD - Closed between Rochester Road and Beddow Way
22nd May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
Alternative route via Rochester Road, Forstal Road, Beddow Way and Pratling Street. (And vice versa).

TUNBRIDGE WELLS SURFACE DRESSING

OLD HOUSE LANE, FORDCOMBE - closed between B2168 Fordcombe Road and Leggs Lane.
14th May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
Alternative route via B2168 Fordcombe Road, The Lane and Old House Road. (And vice versa)

VAUXHALL LANE, SOUTHBOROUGH - closed between A26 London Road and Vauxhall Lane at Cottage Hospital entrance.
14th - 15th May 2013 0900hrs - 1500hrs
Alternative route via Vauxhall Lane, A2014 Pembury Road, A26 Quarry Hill Road and A26 London Road. (And vice versa).

CHEQUERS ROAD, GOUDHURST - A262 Cranbrook Road to B2079 North Road
15th May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
Alternative route via A262 Goudhurst Road, B2079 North Road and B2084 Chequers Road (and vice versa).

CURTISDEN GREEN LANE - closed between B2079 Winchet Hill and Horden Road
15th May 2013 0900hrs - 1500hrs
Alternative route via Sherenden Lane and Wilden Park Road. (And vice versa)

FRIEZLEY LANE, GOUDHURST - closed for its whole length
15th May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
(No alternative route as this is a no through road).

BABBS LANE, BENENDEN - B2086 Mounts Hill to Nineveh Lane.
16th May 2013 0830hrs - 1730hrs
Alternative route via Coldharbour Lane, Iden Green Road, New Pond Road and B2086 Cranbrook Road (And vice versa).

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 28th April 2013

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways & Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

CRICKET

My Harley is not a mid-life crisis... I just wanted to treat myself

KOS Media has teamed up with Kent batsman Michael Powell for a column throughout the 2013 season in which the Welshman will give an unrivalled insight into life on and off the pitch with the county.

I've done a column before back in Cardiff when I was with Glamorgan before I joined Kent last season. I will try to give an honest appraisal of where we are going with the team and what's going on in the changing rooms, behind the scenes and on the pitch.

I've got different stuff I do off the field, when I'm not playing cricket for Kent. I've got a Harley Davidson, which I try to get out on as much as I can.

I try to get away from cricket when I'm not playing. I like riding my Harley to Bristol when I'm at home, but I don't bring it to Canterbury because I've got all my gear – it's too far, really.

When I do get back I take it out as much as I can. It's my first bike and I've always wanted one. I had my benefit year at Glamorgan before I came to Kent and I've always wanted a Harley, so I thought I would treat myself.

Someone asked me if I was having a mid-life crisis, but it's like someone else buying themselves a car. It is a big bike, but it's loud. The louder it is, the safer it is, because people can hear you coming.

Back to the cricket and I think we were under-cooked going into the first game, because we didn't get out as much as we wanted.

The weather was just a nightmare – the games we did play it was great to play, but it wasn't quality practice where we had a long day in the field.

Because we got two days in the field, I think the boys got more battle-hardened – hopefully that put us up to speed for the season. In a strange way that was good prep.

At Leicestershire it was great for Keysey [Rob Key] to get a hundred. Hopefully, that will tally as the season goes along. He is definitely a lot fitter than last year. He has lost a lot of weight, but he has trained very hard in the winter.

He is one of our best batsmen, if not our best, so you would expect him to score a lot of runs. He's a good player. When he scores 100, it's not a big deal – that's the mark of a good player. We are lucky to have him so focused – whether he's captain or not, he's an asset to any team.

There is a lot of off-the-field stuff that goes on as a cricket captain that people don't realise goes on.

When you're captain of a cricket team you control everything, unlike football or rugby. You have a say in everything – there's a lot more to the job than meets the eye.

Our new captain James is good as gold. He's a hard-working, honest cricketer and he leads by example. He sets a good example, does big Treds, so it bodes very well for the team.

He is quieter, but his work ethic is exceptional and the boys respect that. He is more of a look-and-follow-me type of captain.

FOOTBALL

Tunbridge Wells set for

Manager Martin Larkin and chairman Joe Croker talk to **Greg Miles**

MARTIN Larkin admits that his Tunbridge Wells side will have to be at the top of their game if they are to overcome three-time Northern League champions Spennymoor Town at Wembley next Saturday.

Just a week separates Wells from their mammoth date at Wembley in the final of the FA Vase, when the Kent League side will be backed by more than 9,000 fans in the capital.

They are just the second side in the county to ever reach the final, following Deal Town's 1-0 win over Chippenham Town in 2000.

Manager Larkin, 32, has had little time to reflect, with a backlog of league fixtures that has left his side playing as often as five times a week.

Fortunately, there is just one game this week, on Monday at home to Cray Valley PM, before their date in the capital.

It means the squad will be able to train together on Tuesday and Friday before making the trip to their hotel in Windsor on Friday afternoon.

The opponents, heavily favoured by the bookies, who have priced them at 1/6, are the latest in a number of sides from the Northern League to grace the final in recent years and Larkin is well aware of the threat they pose. In fact, Wells knocked out the holders, Northern League side Duntston UTS, in the fourth round.

"If you look at the records for non-league clubs at step 5, Spennymoor are unbelievable," he said. "We have beaten teams in that league already, but we're under no illusions that we will have to be at our very best on the day.

"To win that league three times in a row is fantastic, but if you want to win the cup you have to beat the big teams."

The final preparations have been done for their trip to the stadium, with Larkin keen for his side not to get too distracted on the day.

"Most of the guys have got Thursday and Friday off work," he said. "We will meet up on Friday and go and see the pitch and get their photos done then so that on Saturday we are focused and ready to go.

"We have got a really nice hotel booked in Windsor near Eton Dorney. It's 45 minutes from the stadium. A lot of the hotels the FA wanted us to stay in were near the ground, but we wanted that drive in to see the arch and get excited.

"There's a lot going on before the game, with the build-up, the national anthem and the mascots. We need to make sure that when that whistle goes we are fully focused and not too excited."

With every player wanting to play in what is the biggest game of their career, choosing the side is going to be tough for Larkin.

One piece of good news is that big striker Andy Irvine, who has scored seven goals in the cup run, should be fit for the final after being stretchered off against Woodstock Sports on Tuesday night with a back spasm.

"It's a little emotional when you think about what they could miss out on," said Larkin. "We have got four centre-forwards – we have got some tough choices to make.

"We have got to get the right combinations, it's not just about individuals. That's where the main discussion point lies, but anything can change before then."

Off the pitch, chairman Joe Croker has been busy organising all the extra fixtures, but he allayed fears that the players would not be fresh, insisting the adrenaline rush would make up for any fatigue.

"It's been a couple of the most hectic weeks we've ever had at the club – trying to sort out all these games while thinking about Wembley is hard," he said. "But we've all stepped up to the plate. I can't imagine that anyone playing at Wembley won't be fresh – there's no chance they won't be at their best and putting in 100 per cent."

The might of their opponents also means nothing to Croker, who believes Wells are more than a match for Spennymoor.

"History means nothing, does it? Dunston won the Vase last year and we knocked them out," he said. "It's about what you do on the day. They're a good team, but so are we.

"Outside of family, this has got to be the number-one achievement – to be a part of this is very special. Everyone wants to talk to you all the time. There's a thousand and one tasks to do."

Croker became chairman four years ago, having previously been a season-ticket-holder at Crystal Palace, but he became disillusioned with the professional game.

"From where we were four years ago to where we are now is a great leap," he said. "Four years ago on a Tuesday night we would be lucky to get 30 people here, but now we get 100 as a minimum. We are a building club."

THE OPPOSITION

- Durham side Spennymoor Town have so far sold about 4,000 tickets.
- They have won the Northern League title for the last three years.
- They average home gates of 320 at their Brewery Lane stadium.
- Their chairman is former Aston Villa player Bradley Groves.

FOOTBALL

Fans urged to donate to help save the Fleet

TALKS about the future ownership of Ebbsfleet United are continuing following Myfootballclub's decision to relinquish its shares in the club.

Last weekend the club's owner, web-based membership group MyFootballclub.co.uk, voted to hand over its shares, agreeing on the idea of transferring three-quarters of them to fans' group the Fleet Trust and the remaining quarter to Ebbsfleet director Phil Sonsara.

While the process of transferring those shares is under formal discussions between the club's directors, the Fleet Trust, and MyFC, the club needs to raise some £70,000 before the end of May.

TAKEOVER TALKS: Ebbsfleet United owner Myfootballclub has voted to relinquish its shares in the Stonebridge Road side

Ebbsfleet United director Jessica McQueen said: "At least £20K is required immediately. The club is actively seeking further investment but needs these funds and more over a slightly longer period until new investment has been achieved.

"Donations can be made over the telephone, by cheque in the post, or calling at the club office. The club is open daily between 9.30am and 5pm, Monday to Friday."

The relegated Blue Square Premier club is still in discussions with interested investor Carlos Kabir Karani. The 38-year-old from the Canary Islands and four other investors are looking to buy out MyFC and then use the club as a development platform for talented young footballers.

■ For more information about how to donate to the club's appeal and the Fleet Trust, you can visit www.ebbsfleetunited.co.uk or www.fleet-trust.co.uk.

a frenetic week ahead

about the final preparations for the big final at Wembley next weekend

STANDING TALL: Captain Jason Bourne, Perry Spackman and manager Martin Larkin

Picture: ADY KERRY

IT FEELS A BIT SPECIAL

JOURNEYMAN striker Richard Sinden is relishing a date at Wembley to add to his impressive non-league CV.

The 34-year-old forward was a trainee at Nottingham Forest before moving to Aston Villa, but injuries ended his professional ambitions. He has since turned out for Sittingbourne, Hythe, Ashford, Maidstone, Herne Bay, VCD, Faversham, Canterbury and Whitstable before joining Wells last summer.

"You just feel like this is a squad that could achieve something. It feels a bit special," he said. "I've only ever experienced that with two clubs who have won things. It's a rare feeling.

"I've seen the race of champions at Wembley and Soccer Aid there. It's just a dream from a young age. To achieve it is phenomenal.

"I had a slight realisation about it when watching an advert on TV where they come out of the tunnel, but I don't think it will sink in until we get there."

WE'RE ON CLOUD NINE

THROUGH thick and thin, Shirley Brown has been supporting Tunbridge Wells since 1946.

Since the age of four she has watched the Wells home and away and did not think in her wildest dreams she would see her side make the trip to Wembley.

The 71-year-old said: "We are not interested in Premiership football – we are interested in the grass roots, the honest endeavour.

"Through thick and thin, whether it rains, snows, or frost, we are here.

"We didn't believe that after all these years of supporting them we would get to Wembley. We're still on cloud nine.

"It's going to be quite a day, a day to be remembered. Even if they don't win, just getting to the final is quite an achievement."

Travel guide: train or coach the preferred option

FANS from all over Kent will be making their way to the capital on Saturday.

It is just over 70 miles from Tunbridge Wells to the stadium by car, but the majority will be travelling by coach or rail as parking around the venue is severely limited unless pre-booked.

The stadium has three rail routes, Wembley Park station (serviced by Jubilee and Metropolitan underground lines), Wembley Stadium station (serviced by Chiltern Railways from the north) and Wembley Central station (serviced by Bakerloo and London overground lines). All are within five to 10 minutes' walk from the stadium.

For underground times, visit www.tfl.gov.uk and for overground lines www.nationalrail.co.uk.

■ Tickets are priced at £15 for adults and £5 for children under 16. Tickets are available from www.TheFA.com/tickets, or by phone on 0844 980 0656.

FOOTBALL

Allen revelling in title glory but thoughts are on Wembley trip

GILLINGHAM manager Martin Allen is targeting a trip to Wembley next season as he looks to build on the momentum from winning League Two.

The champions play their final game of the season this weekend at Burton Albion, but Allen already has one eye on next season and has started the recruitment process.

Not content with just consolidating in League One, he wants to challenge for a place in the play-offs and win at Wembley.

"That was one of the best days of my life walking out from that corner flag [to receive the trophy]. I want that again," he said. "I want to be the manager of a football club that's progressive.

"I've had to fight all my life, but not once again after that feeling last week. I've ordered all my big posters and pictures, with my big fat face, and my tie on and in the background it says 'Champions'. I want that again and to be there again. I don't want that to be the only one in my whole life.

Picture: ADY KERRY

CHAMPION: Martin Allen wants that title-winning feeling with Gillingham again

"I said it from day one: I don't want to go up and mess about. This club went up before and got relegated – I don't want that. I got relegated with Cheltenham Town – it was horrendous. I want to win at Wembley. I've told you something there, haven't I?

"There's clubs in the top 10 we can beat and go past with good recruitment now. Then we can go to Wembley and win. That will be the focus from me and the staff. We won't aim for the play-offs – we will win at Wembley. I've lost in the play-offs in the past and it's rubbish.

"Can you imagine me at Wembley? And when we win that, then we can go on a bus [tour]. Everyone thinks I'm mad."

He admitted he had already started looking at adding to his squad for the new season, and he will be telling his current side where their futures lie on Friday when they return from their three-day trip to Benidorm.

"We have got a head start and it does make it easier," he said. "Everyone knew we were going to go up – that was obvious – but then the next challenge after that was to win the championship.

"We are sitting here as champions – strange, isn't it? But we have got to go again. I've listened to Sir Alex Freguson all these years saying make sure you have a good celebration but then get back to work and get back on it.

"I will not speculate on any signing, or on 'I've seen him and my mate down the fish shop said he's seen his brother and he said he saw his aunt and uncle and he's going to get that player'.

"Everything I do will be private, interviewing players, finding out about them and their families, and seeing if they can fit into our culture, and if they are going to improve us."

SPORTS SHORTS

HOCKEY

Canterbury finish in third spot in play-offs

CANTERBURY secured third place in the Women's Hockey League play-offs with a 3-2 win over Surbiton.

Canterbury's hopes of securing a place in European competition ended on Saturday when they lost 5-1 to Reading, but they restored pride with a hard-fought win over Surbiton on Sunday.

Canterbury's Grace Balsdon said afterwards: "Obviously, yesterday was disappointing for us, but after the game we regrouped and turned our focus back to today and getting the result and we are really pleased with the outcome.

"It was a tough match – Surbiton are a great side and been very competitive since coming up to the Premier Division."

ROWING

Rowers pipped to the podium at GB trials

HERNE Bay's Dan Ritchie and Ashford's Tom Ransley were involved in a thrilling finish to the men's pairs final at the Great Britain Rowing Team Senior Trials at the weekend.

The duo, racing at trials for Leander Club, were pipped to a podium place in the dying few strokes by their GB team-mates Alan Sinclair and Nathaniel Reilly O'Donnell.

Their fourth-placed performance, though, will keep them in contention for a leading boat as they enter the seat-racing and crew-formation phase of this year's trials process.

"I knew they were there and we just couldn't hang on," said Ritchie, who missed out on a place at last summer's Olympics through injury.

FOOTBALL

Skipper Barrett voted Gills player of the year

IN last week's paper we asked you for your vote on Gillingham's player of the year for this season.

And we can reveal that Gills skipper Adam Barrett took the honours with a hefty 56 per cent of the voting from the five nominees we put together.

He finished above right-back Matt Fish, who came second with 32 per cent, while Danny Kedwell came third, followed by Deon Burton and Myles Weston.

Barrett has been a rock at the heart of the Gills League Two title-winning side, who have conceded just 36 goals before their final game of the season, at Burton Albion this weekend.

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